

# OSWESTRY & BORDER CHRONICLE



THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2017

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TOP WHERE SOLD

## Mayor looks forward to a busy year for town

OSWESTRY'S new mayor says he is looking forward to a busy year in office.

Councillor Vince Hunt was chosen to be mayor at a meeting on Monday night. He has been a member of Oswestry Town Council for seven years and before that was both a member of Oswestry Borough Council and Oswestry Rural Parish Coun-

cil. He is also a Shropshire Council member.

He said: "It is a very busy time for Oswestry at the moment. We have the Market Towns Partnership up and running as well as the Oswestry Townscape Group. There is also the Business Improvement District initiative which will see businesses take part in a referendum probably

in the latter half of the year." Councillor Hunt's mayoralty is his daughter, Amber, who celebrated her 15th birthday on Saturday.

He said: "She is certainly the youngest mayorette that Oswestry has seen and one of the youngest in the country. I am very keen to get involved in projects to help young people in the town."

Councillor Rebecca Evans is Oswestry's new deputy mayor.

Meanwhile, Welshpool Town Council has elected Councillor Steve Kaye for another term as mayor.

Councillor Kaye has been serving on the council since 2008. Councillor Hazel Evans was elected as his deputy mayor.

And the new leader of Shropshire

Council has been named as Peter Nutting.

Members of Shropshire Council's Conservative group met to elect the new leader on Monday night.

Councillor Nutting will take over from Malcolm Pate. Current deputy leader Steve Charmley, who was re-elected as councillor for Whittington, was re-elected as deputy leader.

# COUNCILLOR IN NEW BYPASS VOW

Report by Sue Austin

A BYPASS for Pant and Llanymynech is to be one of the priorities for the area's new Shropshire Councillor.

As a child Matt Lee was not allowed to bike to school along the A483 trunk road because it was so dangerous.

Now as the new Shropshire Councillor for the area he says he will carry on the fight to get the desperately needed bypass for the villages.

Councillor Lee said that since he was at primary school 30 years ago the amount of traffic and the size of the vehicles have increased dramatically.

The Llanymynech division takes in a large area including Knockin and Kinnerley and Councillor Lee said the area faced various issues, including the state of its rural roads.

He said: "I am very keen to help rural businesses and things like getting decent broadband and mobile phone signals have to be addressed. Better roads can also help the rural economy."

The dangers of the A483 through Pant and Llanymynech were highlighted when Councillor Lee's own children recently took part in a road safety project at Bryn Offa School.

"The thought of my children having to cross that road fills me with dread," he said.

"Even when I was a child I remember that my parents wouldn't let me bike to school along the main road. Today there are far more vehicles on the road. It is not the speed of the vehicles, it is the volume of traffic and also the sheer size of some of the lorries. If you are walking or standing on the pavement when a heavy goods vehicle passes you can feel that you are being pulled into the road. It can be frightening."

Councillor Lee said that Arthur Walpole, who retired from the council at the recent election, had worked hard to bring road improvements to the area.

He said he would look towards not only Highways England but also the Welsh Assembly for help in getting an A483 bypass back on the agenda and said he would be keen to speak to county councillors across the border in Powys.

## Vandalism of defibrillator 'put lives at risk'



Police Community Support Officer Andy Neeves with the defibrillator which was targeted. Photo: Jamie Ricketts.

A POTENTIALLY life-saving defibrillator was vandalised when gum was pressed into vital buttons.

Police have condemned whoever attacked the box which houses the heart-starting machine in the centre of Oswestry.

It hangs on a wall at the Broad Walk next to St Oswald's Parish Church and close to a local bowling club, tennis courts and the town's main park.

A passer-by noticed that gum had been stuck to the defibrillator on Wednesday morn-

ing last week and rang the police. Community Support Officer Andy Neeves said when he saw the box he couldn't believe what had been done.

"Someone had rammed chewing gum, quite deliberately, over the key code buttons that have to be pressed to gain access to the machine," he said.

"Whoever did it was putting lives at risk. Because the gum had hardened it would have been quite hard to push the buttons."

The Broad Walk is a well used pedestrian

walkway through Oswestry. The community support officer said if someone's heart stopped time was of the essence.

CSO Neeves said the gum had now been removed from the machine.

He added: "The person is just as likely to be someone young as someone old."

"These machines are absolutely superb and they save lives. I'm in sheer disbelief that someone would target something that maybe could save their life or a life of a friend or member of their family."

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## DEMOCRACY

### Global cyber attack may have affected election postal votes

RESIDENTS in Mid Wales who have sent in their General Election postal vote by email since midnight on Thursday last week may need to try again.

The announcement was made by Powys County Council who locked down their servers to external email as a result of the global cyber attack prior to the weekend.

Powys County Council has been unaffected by the recent attack, but these extra security controls have been put in place. The restrictions mean that no external - outside of NHS Wales and Powys County Council - incoming email will have been received. Residents have been asked to visit the council's website for further information.

NHS services in Shropshire were among those to have been hit by the international cyber attack. Appointments had to be cancelled at hospitals in the county after a number of computers were affected by the attack.

The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust (SaTH) confirmed the virus was detected on some of its computers. But it said services were running as normal and urged people with appointments to attend. No data or information has been lost or compromised.

Services at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital were unaffected.

The attack has prompted health leaders to ask people with minor illnesses and injuries to use alternatives to A&E.

## CRIME

### CCTV system to get major upgrade

DYFED-POWYS Police will co-fund major improvements to Welshpool's CCTV system, it has been announced.

Town Clerk Robert Robinson told the annual meeting of Welshpool Town Council that he had confirmation that Dafydd Llywelyn, the force's Police and Crime Commissioner, would back the scheme with match-funding.

Mr Robinson said that the current system cost the council £5,250 per year to operate. He said the commissioner would fund improvements which would involve a new digital system housed at the town's police station and additional cameras.

## INSIDE

### It's full steam ahead at festival



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**Report by Naomi Penrose**

PLANS to transform Oswestry into a Business Improvement District (BID) are taking major steps forward.

The group behind the proposal is staging two drop-in sessions to allow businesses to understand more about what benefits the BID status would bring to Oswestry.

The first session will take place tomorrow (Friday) from 8.30am to 4.30pm at Momentum Wines on Maes-Y-Clawdd Industrial Estate.

The second drop-in session will be held at 6-8 Willow Street in Oswestry on Monday from 8.30am to 7pm.

Businesses looking to attend the events need to register beforehand and people can visit [oswestry4bid.co.uk](http://oswestry4bid.co.uk) for more information.

A spokesman for the BID project said: "Find out about this new and exciting opportunity of creating a Business Improvement District for Oswestry."

"Come to one of our workshops and learn about how a BID works in other places and discuss your views with other businesses about how a BID would help your business in Oswestry. Workshop sessions run for an hour and a half and include a brief presentation about how a BID works and what it can do, followed by discussion to capture your views about Oswestry and its future."

Meanwhile the Oswestry BID group has also launched an online survey on its website asking businesses for their views.

That can be found at [oswestry4bid.co.uk](http://oswestry4bid.co.uk). Oswestry will become a Business Improvement District if local firms vote for the move later this year.

Gaining BID status would see business paying an extra levy on their rates and that money would be used to improve the town and potentially draw down other funding from other sources.

Mr Follington, BID chairman, said: "Obviously the benefits a BID brings to the defined area can vary but a BID is a powerful, independent voice representing the interests of a varied community of organisations, committed to working together to ensure that the area continues to progress whilst providing the best possible trading and working environment for its occupiers and broader community."

The project has the backing of Oswestry Town Council and Shropshire Council.

## Festival reaches out to global audience



The Elias String Quartet performing Beethoven in the woods of Chirk Castle on Sunday to launch the chamber music festival

WHITTINGTON'S fifth international chamber music festival, which is running this week, promises to become a lot more international this evening (Thursday).

The festival's concert this evening broadcasts live on Whittington's own radio station Astro Radio and sets out to reach a new audience of more than 150,000 people across the world. Festival chairman Lawrence Mortimer said: "With our six concerts packed out Whittington Church, this is a novel way of increasing our reach. We have no doubt that this stargazing station's regular listenership will be delighted with two hours of Beethoven played by some of Europe's best musicians."

The idea came from Astro Radio owners Pete and Sybil Williamson who help as festival volunteers.

"The quality of the music here every year has to be heard to be believed", said Mr Williamson.

"We run SolarSphere, a rather different music festival of our own in Mid Wales, but what counts in both cases is the magic of brilliant live performance, and that's what Astro can offer Whittington's Beethoven in the Borders".

With an ethernet cable connecting the church to a neighbour's broadband, the concert will broadcast the world famous Elias Quartet – more typically heard on

BBC Radio 3 – and principal players from the London Symphony Orchestra.

Artistic director James Barratt says "This is some of the most beautiful, dramatic and profound stuff in all music".

"Whatever one's taste, by just googling Astro Radio at 7.30pm on Thursday anyone can have an evening they are unlikely to forget." This year's Whittington International Chamber Music Festival was launched on Sunday at Chirk Castle. The Elias String Quartet performed Beethoven in the woods of the castle, attracting an audience of 250 people. For details about the festival's programme visit [www.whittingtonmusicfestival.org.uk](http://www.whittingtonmusicfestival.org.uk)

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## Proposal for new cinema is revealed

PLANS to convert a vacant Oswestry town centre property into a one-screen cinema, which will show the latest, major films, have been revealed.

The man behind the ambitious plans – cinema expert Trevor Harris – said the plans were “exciting” and “just what Oswestry needs”.

Mr Harris, who ran the former Regal Cinema on Leg Street in the town which closed 22 years ago, is a consultant working with the as yet unnamed company behind the project.

He also says he is unable to reveal which building the cinema is proposed for but confirmed the plans were expected to be lodged with Shropshire Council this week.

He said: “All being well, the application for the change of use of the building will be submitted this week before the council gets a chance to consider the plans but until they are formally approved we can’t really do much.”

Mr Harris said the cinema will run full time, screening all the major film releases.

Mr Harris said he is also waiting to hear back after applying for grant funding to help get the scheme off the ground. He added: “This is something extremely exciting for the town, which I hope everyone will get behind. It would be fantastic to bring another cinema to Oswestry.”

## Ice axe may have scaled Everest

AN ice axe bought at a car boot sale for £2 is believed to have belonged to an Everest conquering mountaineer.

The axe has Mt Everest 1956 and the initials ES scratched into it.

Gwilym Roberts, of Penygoes, bought the axe at the Chirk boot sale near Oswestry.

He took it along to filming for the BBC Flog It programme for a valuation. The filming took place at Penrhyn Castle in North Wales earlier this month and will be screened early next year.

Mr Roberts said the axe had been languishing in a shed as his house for more than 10 years.

Presenter, Paul Martin, said the axe is thought to have been owned by Ernst Schmeid, a famous mountaineer who went up Everest.

He said: “It is a fascinating piece of mountaineering history.”

**Report by Amy Downward**

**POLITICAL** parties have chosen their candidates to stand for next month’s General Election.

Voters in the Oswestry area will be electing an MP for the North Shropshire seat while voters in Welshpool will be electing an MP for Montgomeryshire.

The Conservatives’ candidate for North Shropshire will once again be Owen Patterson who has held the seat since 1997. He has risen within the party ranks to hold key positions including Northern Ireland Secretary, before taking over as Environment Secretary.

Graeme Currie, who is from Bagley, near Ellesmere, has been confirmed as Labour’s candidate, as he was for the 2015 General Election. Mr Currie is a social worker who runs his own independent social work business.

Tom Thornhill is the Liberal Democrats’ candidate for North Shropshire. The trainee teacher and charity worker, 22, is promoting a liberal, open, tolerant Britain and is pro-European.

Just days after learning he had lost his seat on Shropshire Council, the Green Party’s Duncan Kerr has learned he has been chosen to challenge for the North Shropshire seat in the General Election. He was the party’s first councillor on the local authority after taking the Oswestry South ward in a by-election last year.

In Montgomeryshire, the Conservatives have once again selected Glyn Davies as their candidate. Mr Davies has been the MP for Montgomeryshire since 2010.

Jane Dodds has been selected as the Liberal Democrat candidate for Montgomeryshire. She is a Welsh speaker and studied at Cardiff University. She then trained to be a social worker in child protection and has continued to work in that area for the last 20 years.

The Labour Party candidate for the Montgomeryshire constituency is Iwan Wyn Jones. He is from Caernarfon and has just completed his studies at Aberystwyth University.

Aled Morgan is Plaid Cymru’s candidate. He grew up in Dolanog and now lives in Llangadfan. He is a fluent Welsh speaker.

Richard Chaloner is the Green Party candidate and has worked as a further education lecturer, author of textbooks in health and social care and as a senior examiner.

“There is a section of towpath

## Towpath ‘becoming health hazard’



Some sections of the Montgomery Canal are picturesque – but some are becoming ‘health hazards’

A CANAL towpath is fast becoming a health hazard with the amount of dog mess left by irresponsible owners, it has been claimed.

Volunteers working to restore and maintain the section of the Montgomery Canal through Welshpool say the mess will put off visitors, who bring money into the town.

Malcolm Douglass, one of those involved in the canal, and a town councillor, said: “At the moment the canal towpath in Welshpool is fast becoming a health hazard as a result of selfish and irresponsible dog owners.

“We appreciate them cleaning up after their animals,” he said.

leading out of Welshpool towards Newtown which is contaminated with dog mess every few feet. It really is disgusting and a disgrace to the town. It is only common sense that if you are going to take your dog for a walk it is going to go to the toilet. Dog owners should automatically take a bag with them to pick up the mess.”

Councillor Douglass said he knew it was only a minority and that, thankfully, Welshpool had more responsible dog owners than irresponsible ones.

“Some individuals even pick the mess up and then leave it in little bags either on the canal towpath or worse leave it hanging up in trees. We need people to look out for these individuals and point out their wrong doings and report the matter to Welshpool Town Council.”

“We are currently highlighting the amount of dog excrement along the canal and indeed in town to bring this matter to everyone’s attention. If incidents are reported to Welshpool Town Council it can look to fine the individuals. There is no excuse for this irresponsible behaviour.”

“Some individuals even pick the mess up and then leave it in little bags either on the canal towpath or worse leave it hanging up in trees. We need people to look out for these individuals and point out their wrong doings and report the matter to Welshpool Town Council.”

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Polls reminder given to public

VOTERS have until Monday to make sure that they are registered for next month’s General Election, Powys County Council has said.

Anyone who was registered to vote at the EU Referendum or the local elections earlier in May do not need to re-register, unless they have moved, in order to vote in next month’s General Election. The deadline for applying for a postal vote or to apply or change existing absent voting arrangements is 5pm on Tuesday. The deadline to apply for a proxy vote, where a voter nominates a trusted person to cast a vote on their behalf, is 5pm on May 31. Jeremy Patterson, Powys County Council’s Returning Officer, said: “We want to make sure that no-one misses out on their right to take part in these elections just because they aren’t registered to vote.”

### Coffee morning set to be staged

A COFFEE morning with craft stalls will be held on Saturday in Welshpool.

The event will be held at the town’s Corn Exchange and will run from 9am until 1pm.

Any local crafters wanting a table at £5 should call 07782 166342, organisers have said.

Money raised will go towards the Welshpool 1940s Weekend to be held from September 29 to October 1.

Future fundraising includes having stalls at the town’s carnival and air show. Anyone willing to help at either event should call the above number.

Full details on the weekend can be found on [www.welshpool1940sweekend.co.uk](http://www.welshpool1940sweekend.co.uk) or Facebook – Welshpool Forties Weekend.

### Fire crews called out to blaze alert

FIREFIGHTERS were called out to a town centre street after businesses were “heavily logged with smoke” because a toaster was left unattended.

Cross Street in Oswestry was sealed off and firefighters from the town and Ellesmere attended the scene after reports of a small fire on Tuesday.

The fire service were called out at about 10.50am but on arrival there was no fire – just smoke.

The premises of Co-op Travel and Designs In Mind were heavily smoke logged as a result.

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Carl Cowans

A DRUG dealer and recovering heroin addict with a string of convictions has been jailed for 21 months for robbing a shopkeeper of cash and cigarettes worth more than £400.

Carl Cowans, of Garth Owen in Newtown, carried out the raid at the Boozed-Up store, in Salop Road, Oswestry, in November last year.

At Shrewsbury Crown Court, a

jury found him guilty of the robbery following a trial, but cleared Cowans, aged 35, of a further charge of being in possession of a knife.

The court was told that £445 in cash and some Lambert & Butler cigarettes were stolen from the off-licence and that minutes after the robbery Cowans was seen by police.

Officers recovered the cash from

Cowans's wallet tucked into his waist band and a packet of cigarettes and he was arrested.

Shop proprietor Harkamal Dhillon later picked out Cowans on a video identification parade.

Kevin Jones, prosecuting, read out Mr Dhillon's victim impact statement at the sentencing in which Mr Dhillon explained how the robbery had affected him. It

stated that the experience made him scared of working in the shop in the evening.

Mr Jones told the hearing that Cowans has 35 previous convictions.

In mitigation, Debra White told the court that her client had spent 173 days in custody on remand regarding the robbery which was in effect almost 12 months and had mental health issues.

# Father died from overdose of pain relief, inquest told

Report by Thomas Morton

A FATHER-of-two found dead in his bathroom had overdosed on pain relief medication, a coroner has heard.

The sudden death of Thomas Paul Pritchard came as a shock to friends, family and neighbours, as the 29-year-old was discovered dead in his Oswestry home by police, after a neighbour raised concerns.

An inquest held at Shrewsbury Coroners Court on Thursday last week revealed the cause of death was from a toxic level of opiates – thought to be morphine.

Joanne Lees, assistant coroner for Shropshire, said: "In his system was found opiates, alcohol, prescription drugs and non-prescription drugs. That included high levels of morphine."

She said he had developed medical problems in his early 20s including seizures and varicose veins, the latter causing him pain for which he was prescribed drugs, and he had met with his GP earlier in December to discuss his level of medication.

However, she said, his mother Jane Pritchard had told her he was in a stable relationship with two young children and "in the weeks leading up to his death he had been looking forward to Christmas and spending it with his family."

But on December 13 a female police officer entered his home in Beatrice Street and found Mr Pritchard in the bathroom, already deceased.

"She tells me that he had had contact with a neighbour the previous evening and they had expressed concerns about the level of medication he was taking," Mrs Lees said. She concluded: "There is no evidence he intended to take his own life as he was looking forward to Christmas. He had developed an addiction to prescription drugs and was self-medicating, and that resulted in a huge overdose."

She recorded a verdict of death by misadventure.

## Emma nails it to reach final



Emma Bernard, owner of The Nailed It! Salon and Training Academy in Welshpool

BUSINESSWOMAN Emma Bernard has nailed it when it comes to beauty.

She has been shortlisted in an all-Wales competition to find the best of the best in the hair and beauty industry.

The owner of The Nailed It! Salon and Training Academy in Welshpool, she has been shortlisted in the nail technician of the year category for the second year running.

"I cannot believe I am a finalist again as the competition is so much tougher this year," she said.

"To be a finalist again for 2017 is amazing, coming as we are just launching our

training academy it really is the icing on the cake. I am so proud to represent Welshpool once again."

A diverse range of accolades is up for grabs, including Spa of the Year, Salon Design of the Year, to the much sought after Beauty Salon of the Year and many others.

The fourth annual Welsh Hair & Beauty Awards will be held on Sunday at Cardiff Stadium.

The awards seek to acknowledge and honour the work of the best professionals and businesses in the Welsh hair and beauty industry.

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# Two are arrested as £43k of illegal tobacco seized

Report by Nathan Rowden

**TWO** people have been arrested after more than £43,000 of illegally smuggled and counterfeit cigarettes and tobacco were seized from a shop in Oswestry.

The tobacco products were found in secret compartments in the floors and walls of the shop, which has not been named – including a remote-controlled storage facility which formed part of an internal door frame which only revealed its contents when a fob similar to a car alarm was activated.

The seizure of over 50,000 cigarettes and 50kg of rolling tobacco included a range of brands believed to be either counterfeit or bootlegged which cannot be legally sold in the UK.

The illegal tobacco stash was found at the shop premises and an associated lock up store on May 5, bosses at Shropshire Council's trading standards department have said.

Two people were arrested following the raid.

Investigations by officers are ongoing into the activities at the premises following the raid.

A vehicle associated with the operation was also seized.

That vehicle was removed by officers for further examination.

The seizure was made following the raid by officers from Shropshire Council's trading standards and licensing team, and West Mercia Police.

Grant Tunnadine, investigations team manager for Shropshire Council's trading standards and licensing service, said traders can go to "extraordinary lengths" to hide their offending.

But he warned that officers would continue to target the illegal trade.

And he said traders who carried out lawful sales of tobacco were losing out to the illegal traders.

Mr Tunnadine said: "It is disappointing that illicit tobacco continues to be sold in retail premises within the county. However, despite the extraordinary lengths that these traders go to try and hide their illicit products, we are wise to their methods and will continue to combat this damaging illegal trade.

"Those involved in dealing in illegal tobacco are encouraging people, including children, to smoke by providing a cheap source. As well as the obvious health concerns that this raises, a lot of legitimate businesses in Oswestry will also be losing customers to the illegal trade in tobacco.

"Offenders need to know that if they deal in these illegal products the council will make full use of all the enforcement tools and sanctions at our disposal."

**SUSPENSIONS** of Conservative councillors on Powys County Council relating to code of conduct breaches have cost taxpayers thousands of pounds.

A Freedom of Information request has uncovered the combined suspensions of councillors Aled Davies, Gary Price and Gwynfor Thomas cost the public more than £16,000.

Liberal Democrats asked for "the full costs to the council of the investigations into the suspension of the three members this term".

The investigation into Councillor Davies, who represents Llanrhedr-ym-Mochnant and Llanllin, and also leads the Conservative group on the council, cost a total of £4,788.

Investigations into Councillor Price, who represents Llandrindod North, and Councillor Thomas, who represents Llansantffraid, cost £6,662 and £4,840 respectively, according to the FOI request.

The combined total for the three suspensions came to £16,292.

Councillor James Gibson-Watt, leader of the Welsh Liberal Democrats on Powys County Council, said: "The behaviour that led to these suspensions has used up taxpayer's money that is sorely needed to fund front-line services."

A spokesman for Powys County Council confirmed that all the figures were correct.

Cllr Aled Davies, Cllr Gary Price and Cllr Gwynfor Thomas faced suspensions relating to code of conduct breaches.



The seized goods were found at a shop in Oswestry after a council and police raid

## Suspension action cost thousands

## Drink-driver gets road ban

A SELF-employed farm worker who was found to be more than twice the drink-drive limit after going out for birthday drinks has been given a 20-month driving ban.

David Ellis had been driving a Nissan Terrano when he was stopped by police in Holyhead Road, West Felton, near Oswestry, Telford Magistrates Court heard on Wednesday last week. Abigail Hall, prosecuting, said a police officer suspected he might be over the drink-drive limit and 42-year-old Ellis failed a roadside breath test.

He was taken to a police station and given another breath test, recording a reading of 85 microgrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath. The legal limit is 35mg.

Ellis, who gave his address as caravan

at The Navigation pub in Maesbury, near Oswestry, admitted driving while over the drink-drive limit on April 22. He also pleaded guilty to driving with no insurance and without a valid vehicle licence.

Lisa Morris-Jones, representing Ellis, told the court he had been for birthday drinks before being pulled over.

She told the court: "He had finished work and gone out for a few drinks with his friends and was driving home.

"He is appalled at his behaviour."

The court heard Ellis is a self-employed farm worker who rents fields from farmers, where he keeps livestock.

As well as a 20-month driving ban, magistrates ordered him to pay a £400 fine, £135 costs and £30 victim surcharge.

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## BREEZE ABOUT TOWN

Clive Knowles and his amazing team at The British Ironwork Centre at Aston near Oswestry have gained some overdue recognition in their fight to get knives off our streets.

West Midlands Police & Crime Commissioner David Jamieson has presented the centre with a commendation for supporting the national effort to remove weapons from our streets through the centre's work in building and supplying police forces with knife banks. Anyone who has visited the centre couldn't help but be absolutely amazed by the giant Shropshire Knife Angel, built with some of the weapons handed in to the banks. And if you haven't seen it yet, you really should.

When Clive first told me of his idea for the knife banks it seemed like a completely off-the-wall scheme, destined for dismissal by the country's police forces. How wrong I was, and I really should have known better than to doubt a man with such great vision. And just to prove that fact he's now determined to extend the scheme to include guns. His latest plan is to supply forces with gun banks with the West Midlands police force already signed up. It's another great idea. And, of course, that means another massive creation from the guns will be on the way to Oswestry but first there's the little matter of getting the Knife Angel mounted on the fourth plinth in Trafalgar Square. The plinth was built in 1841 and was meant to hold a statue of William IV, but funds ran out.

Now it hosts a series of commissioned artworks by world class artists and is the most talked about contemporary art prize in the UK – surely the Knife Angel fits the bill perfectly.

There's an absolute nightmare on the way if you're an evening traveller on the A483 between Oswestry's Mile End roundabout and Llanymynech with diversions set to be in place.

The road will close completely between 9pm and 5am for three months between mid-July and September to allow pavement improvements to take place and that means one massive headache for those who use the road regularly. Highways England will be carrying out the work which means the message about any new road to bypass the area has not reached that department yet. Will we ever see it?

...

Great news in Welshpool with the town clerk announcing that money is on the way from Dyfed Powys Police & Crime Commissioner Dafydd Llywelyn to upgrade and improve the town's CCTV system. The town council already has a very good digital system housed at the Town Hall but news that the commissioner wants to partner with a new installation is brilliant news.



Teams of biking volunteers cover both Shropshire and Staffordshire delivering blood



Sundorne WI president Mabel Dyas hands a cheque to Gordon Hooper from Blood Bikes



Rugeley Runners hand over a donation to Staffordshire and Shropshire Blood Bikes

## PETER RHODES



WALKING down the lane, I spotted a little chap not more than two feet tall with his arms folded.

We studied each other, 100 yards apart.

He turned out to be a hare standing on his back legs, and I've never seen any animal looking quite so human.

I wonder if that's where leprechaun sightings came from.

THIS is the time of year when male pheasants – sometimes called the poor man's peacock – emerge in the greatest glory.

They are as stately as an ibis, as richly hued as a bird of paradise and far better behaved than peacocks.

We have one peacock in the garden at Chateau Rhodes who comes to the window with his harem of five hens and taps on the pane to be fed.

Every human who sees him is bowled over by his iridescent plumage and dramatic scarlet wattles.

The mystery is that his rather drab mates seem totally unperturbed by his display.

His most dazzling courtship display is met by their utter indifference.

Some weeks from now the chicks will appear. I often wonder how.

PREACHING the benefits of an inquiring mind, Jeremy Corbyn says: "I don't consider myself the world's greatest intellectual but you learnt from everybody, don't close your mind to the thoughts of others." Pity he didn't follow that mantra in his school days.

Corbyn was a privileged pupil but despite the benefits of a prep school and grammar school, he achieved only two dismal E-grade passes in his A-levels.

And while we're on it, why this 1950s-style obsession with nationalising the railways and squeezing the banks until the pips squeak? Half the population hardly ever uses a train and how many of us even know a single investment banker, let alone blame him for our ills?

THREE men and our boats are off to Loch Lomond once again.

Enthusiastic dabblers in the kitchen, we always look forward to the cuisine as much as the sailing.

We eat the sort of food you never seem to get at home.

My unforgettable Pilchard Surprise of 2014 was a bold attempt to use up some leftover ingredients. The chief surprise was how completely a tin of pilchards vanished into the pasta sauce.

The only identifiable parts were eyes, bits of spinal column and goblets of metallic blue-grey mush. An unforgettable meal and, God knows, I've tried.

AS I'm on holiday this week, I'd be grateful if you would hold those emails for a few days. Especially you three-a-day correspondents.

You know who you are.

# Dedicated volunteers on two wheels who aid NHS

**Blood Bikes provides vital service to the NHS – and more riders are needed. AMY DOWNDRAFT reports.**

**BLOOD** bikes are expected to cover more than 200,000 miles in Shropshire this year – 50,000 more than in 2016.

And this week members of the team, who are all volunteers, told of the challenge of keeping up with demand.

During a time when hospital services are under increasing pressure every day, Shropshire and Staffordshire Blood Bikes is helping to free up beds, save lives, and save thousands of pounds.

Blood Bikes have become a regular sight on Shropshire's roads since 2014, taking vital supplies to hospitals.

Last year volunteers covered 147,814 miles and completed 2,998 urgent deliveries of blood and other medical products, such as breast milk for premature babies and microbiological samples.

In 2017 it is expected the charity will top the 200,000 mile mark.

The charity operates 24/7, providing emergency transport every night, at weekends and over bank holidays.

It is funded by donations and is free of charge to the NHS.

### Dedicated

SSBB is currently averaging 120 deliveries in Shropshire per month equating to an average of four per day.

Paul Collyer, charity trustee and Shropshire group leader said: "We are very fortunate to have such a dedicated team of volunteers to operate the service, often at unsociable hours.

"While we rarely know precisely what we are carrying, we can be certain that it is of urgent nature and that a safe and



Celebrating the bike service are Paul Collyer, volunteer rider Barrie Walters, controller Sam Waters and scientist Natalie Hicks

timely delivery could be potentially life-changing for the patient.

"The service is undoubtedly providing huge cost savings to the SaTH, but it is the delivery efficiency afforded by the use of motorcycles that can sometimes make the critical difference."

Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust was the first trust SSBB served when the service began in January 2014.

Originally this was just between Telford and Shrewsbury, but it has since grown to incorporate Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital, Bridgnorth and Lud-

low community hospitals, as well as the three Severn Hospice sites.

More recently they have also been providing a service to GP practices in the area, taking urgent samples for testing at hospital, which cannot wait for the delivery driver the next day.

Mr Collyer added: "Taking an average figure of 20 miles per delivery, and a cost of £2 per mile which a taxi courier would charge, probably more at night, we estimate a saving to SaTH of approximately £5,000 per month, or £60,000 per annum, which can be redirected to patient care."

"A by-product of the service is actually helping to free up beds, as patients can receive bloods, or have tests completed much sooner, shortening the length of their stay in hospital, and supporting our over stretched NHS.

"We currently have almost 200 members, 60 of whom are based in Shropshire, comprising of riders, controllers and fundraisers – all of whom provide vital support services that enable the service to operate."

SSBB is actively recruiting new members to assist with the large upsurge in service requests.

Mr Collyer said: "Members are free to give as much or as little time as they can afford and have the choice to add themselves to a published 'online' rota."

"Whether you are a rider, a potential controller or fundraiser, we would love to hear from you.

"Full training is of course provided."

### Support

Debbie Jones, support services care group director at SaTH, said: "Blood bikes provide a fantastic service and we are incredibly grateful to their volunteers for their outstanding support to our hospitals."

"On a regular basis we need to transport samples urgently between Shrewsbury and Telford and also from here in Shropshire to Birmingham and beyond."

"In the past it has been quite difficult, often of hours, to get those samples moving quickly, so it has made a huge difference to us to be able to rely on blood bikes to get those samples moving for us."

"There are certainly times when the quicker we can get results back the better the outcome for the patient, so blood bikes are helping to save lives and, at the same time, they are saving the NHS lots of money."

"We very much appreciate all of their efforts and the support they give both SaTH and the wider NHS."

For more information, go to [ssbb.org.uk](http://ssbb.org.uk)

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# USA will go to war when it wants

WHEN Donald Trump was on the campaign trail, I think he said to the millions of American people: "We will not get involved in foreign conflicts."

On April 7 he launched a missile attack against Syrian forces, without UN approval and without waiting for evidence, to establish whether it was a chemical factory by the opposition forces or Syrian forces used gas bombs to kill civilians.

The USA go on about other countries breaking international laws, but seem to get away with war crimes themselves, such as backing Saddam Hussein in the Iran-Iraq war, then disposing of him after he

was no longer of use to them. The USA also overthrew governments in Latin America and here are two of the last examples in the 1980s. Nicaragua – the USA-backed contra rebels against the Sandinista government who lost elections in 1989 because of the damage done to the country through war. Panama – the US troops invaded and forcibly removed head of state Manuel Noriega.

The USA only go to war when it suits their political aims, resources and money.

The Syrian conflict has nothing to do with helping the Syrian people, more like wanting to lay a gas pipe line from Saudi Arabia to the Lebanon.

Allied forces back Saudi Arabia because they have done an oil deal with the USA and will keep the Petro Dollar. Saudi Arabia being allied to Israel also has a bearing on our government selling arms to Saudi Arabia, and it is a well-known fact British arms are being used to kill civilians in the Yemen. Yet somehow this is not a war crime? The modern world is a very complex place when you take into account that Bin Laden was related to the Saudi Royal Family, and allied forces are backing Islamic extremists against Assad.

MARK NORWOOD  
Whittington

# Our songs may have upset the members of the PC brigade

JUST recently, singing certain songs reached the headlines in some daily papers and it had nothing to do with the Top of the Pops or the Eurovision contest.

First the English rugby anthem Swing Low Sweet Chariot followed by the Jimi Hendrix song Hey Joe.

The singer of the second song was arrested and detained for seven hours before being released without charge as the song was deemed a threat, but so is Tom Jones' Delilah.

I hate to think what would have happened years ago when after match days you would adjourn to the club house for a good old sing-song.

We would all have been arrested for using obscene language and gestures (only allowed these days on BBC Red Nose Day).

Just what the PC brigade would have thought of our renditions is anyone's guess, as they could have had us for racism, taking the Lord's name in vain, sexual harassment and much more, but then it was a free society in those days and a good time was had by all.

I remember buying four old ladies a round of Mackeson after a certain song was sung, they thanked me very much and said they were thoroughly enjoying it, ah those were the days.

The song in question was the Wild West Show along with Gunga Din, Swing Low – with all the actions, Mary from the Mountain Glen, The Alphabet Song and many more.

I do not think that these titles will mean anything to the uninitiated, but most weekends they could be heard in any club house in the country, though maybe not in the golf club, but then it takes all kinds.

I do not know if it still goes on, which would be a great pity as I see it, back in the 50s, 60s and 70s it was all part of growing up, and most of that time the only drug around was smoking and the air could get rather fuggy, still if they are not sung today it is great shame as it was a part of our social history.

MR K BEDDIS  
Yockleton

# What about a share of our own assets?

ALL I seem to hear is about the huge bill the European Union expects us to pay for leaving them.

Well, over the years we have been a massive net payer – probably the second highest payer after Germany.

The European Union will have accumulated massive assets which we will have paid for.

Surely we will be entitled to our share of these assets based on what we have paid.

Many of the countries will have paid nothing towards them, being subsidised by the net paying countries.

Britain must pursue payments from the European Union for our share of assets.

My guess is they are worth more than the money the corrupt European Union are trying to claim from us.

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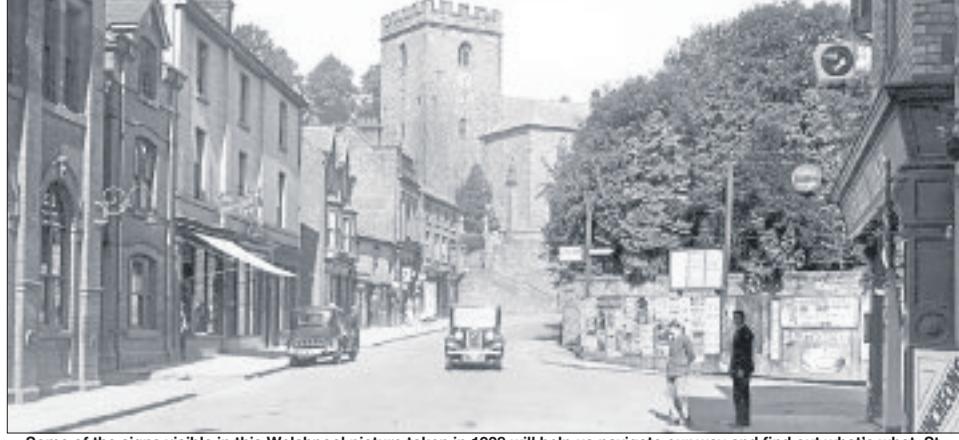
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## Helpful signs keep us all on the right road



Some of the signs visible in this Welshpool picture taken in 1938 will help us navigate our way and find out what's what. St Mary's Church needs no explanation, while the sign in the row on the left is for The Broadway Cafe, Welshpool. The writing on the front of the building far right is J. Harold Thomas. There is a sign pointing the way to the cinema on a lamppost. At the end of the buildings on the left, nearest the church, there is a sign for the Temperance Hotel. Picture: Sally Anne Richards.

## Brexit gives us a chance to decide on our own path

I STILL cannot fathom the minds of those who do not understand the EU and who wish to continue to be dominated by this unelected and undemocratic regime.

To try to simplify the decline of the United Kingdom after nigh on 40 years being part of this expensive mistake, just look around for yourselves.

The countryside is awash with litter, the surfaces of just about everything are daubed with meaningless graffiti, pavements and pedestrian areas are covered in discarded chewing gum and cigarette ends, vandalism and anti-social behaviour is ever on the increase. The appalling state of so many of our roads – these are just a very few of the ways where our country has declined whilst in the EU. Now with Brexit we have the opportunity of determining our own path, overseen by our elected government. Whatever figures people may come up with, our membership of this cash-guzzling monster, according to a number of experts, has been in the order of £400 billion.

PETER HARMAN  
Tibberton

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**POST**  
Readers' Letters,  
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**EMAIL**

[letters@oswestrychronicle.co.uk](mailto:letters@oswestrychronicle.co.uk)

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

## Easy solution to race delays

I HAVE a simple solution to the misery, inconvenience and delays to hundreds of hard working, law abiding, unconsulted, misled and planning-abiding Oswestry residents. Have the next half marathon around Rednal aerodrome! Simple!

Unless the organisers are looking to close roads for hours longer than quoted, refusing people access to their own homes, abandoning road signs and closing roads not forewarned, about on purpose.

SUE STEWART  
Oswestry

## Trustee's role can offer so much to a lot of local people

HAVE any of your readers ever considered becoming a trustee of a charity?

Being a trustee can be a deeply fulfilling experience for you, the organisation you serve and, most importantly, for the organisation's beneficiaries or cause.

You can use the skills and knowledge you've gained over the years, learn new ones, meet new people and influence an organisation or cause that you care about.

Age Cymru Powys – the leading charity for all older people in Powys, is looking for people to join the board of trustees.

We want to recruit individuals with a range of skills including marketing, finance, management, human resources, the legal field and business.

If you live in the Powys area, perhaps you would consider putting yourself forward as a trustee for Age Cymru Powys?

If so, please send your CV and a covering letter to Gail Hamer, Development Manager, Marlow, South Crescent, Llanydronedwells, Powys LD1 5DH.

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Youngsters from a wide variety of schools have been keen to help the British Ironwork Centre in its latest unusual art project



Monty Humphrys-James and Heidi Blaytos from The Marches School help out

# We can all help out!

## CHILDREN are a canny lot when it comes to recycling.

Pupils from schools across Shropshire are taking part in an appeal to collect as many cans as they can for an unusual art project.

After the success of its Spoon Gorilla, then the Knife Angel, the British Ironwork Centre at Aston near Oswestry wants to create a sculpture of Her Majesty the Queen, from empty tin cans.

Its aim is to promote recycling and celebrate the reign of her majesty.

Clive Knowles, chairman of the centre, said: "This project intends to highlight the opportunity

of doing something useful and beautiful from general household waste.

"This connects to the education system and relates to saving the environment and how, when everyone pulls together, we can have a positive impact on our world.

The project intends to create a giant bust of her Majesty the Queen, from all the tens of thousands of cans collected from schools.

"Every school partnering this colossal ambition will be rewarded with a completely free day of fun and creativity."

The centre has released figures to show that up to 60 per cent of all dustbin rubbish is recyclable.

Mr Knowles said: "If all tin cans were recycled in the UK, we would need about 20 million less dustbins.

"Making one aluminium drink can uses the same energy as recycling 20 cans."

Schools can contact the centre if they want to be involved to get leaflets and flyers, recycling fact sheets, project leaflets and collection bins.

The tin can project has been enthusiastically supported by children at many schools in and around the Oswestry area as well as further afield.

Among pupils who attended the centre recently to lend their support and find out more about the scheme were youngsters from The Marches School in Oswestry and from Bellan House in the town.



Children from Oswestry's Bellan House School do their bit for the can appeal

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# Hundreds of vehicle users are failing to belt up

A CRACKDOWN on people not wearing seatbelts saw 400 culprits caught across Mid Wales in just two weeks.

The number was almost half the 850 people who committed seatbelt offences throughout Wales during the All Wales Seatbelt Campaign in March.

Dyfed-Powys Police took the lead on the campaign, warning drivers they risked their lives by not wearing belts, and cracking down on motorists and passengers who refused to belt up.

Assistant Chief Constable, Liane James, said: "Not wearing a seatbelt can be a fatal decision even on short, familiar journeys and at low speeds. As a driver you are responsible for ensuring that passengers under the age of 14 are wearing a seatbelt, or using the correct child restraint for their height and age."

She said although most road users are fully aware of the potential consequences of not wearing a seatbelt, police officers throughout Wales clamped down on those continuing to ignore the law and endangering all road users.

"Wearing a seatbelt is such a simple, easy thing to do," she said.

"As police officers, we see the consequences of driving without a seatbelt all too often at crash scenes. While you will face a fine if you are caught without your seatbelt on, the key message we are trying to get across is that wearing a seatbelt really could mean the difference between life and death – and that applies just as much to passengers as it does to drivers and it also endangers other people within the car." Motorists and passengers who choose to risk their lives by not wearing a seatbelt could receive a £100 on-the-spot fine.

For more information, visit [www.wales.police.uk](http://www.wales.police.uk)

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Report by Naomi Penrose

**A FUNDRAISING** drive has been launched at a community centre to raise £5,000 to pay for much-needed improvements.

Trustees at the St Martins Centre in St Martins, near Oswestry, have kick-started the appeal in a bid to pay for CCTV covering outside the building, which includes the children's playground and football pitch, in a bid to keep youngsters safe.

Money is also needed for security lights, relaying the path at the front of the centre, and changing the layout of the garden.

It's also hoped the funds will stretch as far as purchasing new waste recycling bins, new benches to accompany the outside table, repairing a couple of leaks in the building and giving the centre a fresh lick of paint.

Lesley Roberts, a trustee at the centre, said the improvements will make a "huge difference" to members of the community, as people of all ages use the venue.

She said: "It really is a highly valued community centre, which offers something for everyone. We have the youth club here, a book box where people can borrow books from here, people who are looking for work come here to use the computers, we have computer classes here. The parish council also uses the building once a month."

So far a number of £100 pledges have come forward but trustees at the centre are also taking matters into their own hands by organising a host of fundraising events including through bag packing at local supermarkets, hosting car boot sales and a host of other events.

Those who want to donate can either pop into the centre and see one of the trustees or they can do so via cheque.

# Fundraising drive aims to raise £5k for centre

## Boss blown away by unusual sight



Stuart Jones was able to capture footage of the dust devil in St Martins on his mobile phone

THERE was not a cloud in the sky or a breeze in the air yet a 'mini tornado' appeared at the headquarters of a heavy plant rental company.

Managing director at Ridgway Rentals in St Martins near Oswestry, Stuart Jones, was walking across the site when dust rose several feet into the air in front of him.

He was able to film the phenomena, which happened on Wednesday afternoon last week, on his mobile phone.

Mr Jones has since discovered it was a dust devil – more common in desert or arid landscapes.

"At first I thought it was a mini-tornado but there was absolutely

no wind in the yard at all," he said. "We have had similar things that might rise up from the ground a few feet then disappear almost immediately but nothing as spectacular as this before."

"You can really hear it blowing, and it's certainly something quite amazing to see."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Golfers swing into action for farmers

GOLFERS will be swinging into action on June 2 to help farmers in financial hardship.

Henlle Park Golf Club is staging a golf challenge for teams of four to raise money for the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution (RABI).

Last year's charity tournament at Henlle Park raised around £2,500 for RABI – a welfare charity which helps farmers and farmworkers of all ages.

RABI volunteers will serve up sausages in baps after the ninth hole of the Henlle Park fundraiser, now a popular fixture on the regional golfing calendar. Entry costs £168 per team and includes a two-course roast meal after the golf as well as mid-round baps and coffee and bacon rolls on arrival. There will be team prizes plus nearest-the-pin and longest drive awards also up for grabs. Henlle Park Golf Club has been a staunch supporter of RABI for many years. This year's main tournament sponsor is Agri Advisor Solicitors.

Wynnstay is providing prizes for the winning team.

### Old hill fort is the topic of talk

THIS month North Shropshire and Borders Smallholding and Country Living Group has a talk on Old Oswestry Hill Fort given by Dr George Nash.

The meeting is on Wednesday next week at The Bradford Arms in Llanyrnach, starting at 8pm.

As usual anyone who is interested is very welcome to come along to the group's meeting.

The cost for visitors is £5 single/£7.50 couple.

For more information people can call (01952) 740242 or go to the website at [www.northshrop-smallholder.co.uk](http://www.northshrop-smallholder.co.uk)



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## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Dip in retained fire crew levels

THE number of retained firefighters across Wales has hit a nine-year low, new figures have revealed.

The biggest drop was seen in North Wales, where numbers fell from 577 employees in 2007-8 to 390 in 2015-16. South Wales, along with Mid and West Wales services saw more modest declines in the same period – from 624 and 713 respectively falling to 604 and 695.

The Fire Brigades Union said retention of employees was difficult but fire authorities said they are recruiting.

Despite the gradual decline in numbers, South Wales fire service had reached a high of 723 retained firefighters in 2010-11, while Mid and West Wales topped 782 on-call staff in 2013-14.

Both fire authorities have seen a year-on-year drop in retained firefighter numbers since those highs.

## Union will say why farming matters

A BUSY weekend of promoting why #FarmingMatters and highlighting the dangers dogs pose to livestock is awaiting the Farmers' Union of Wales at this year's Royal Welsh Spring Festival on Saturday and Sunday.

The FWU stand in the Glamorgan Hall at the showground at Llanelwedd will be a hive of activity and members are invited to join union staff for discussions on farming matters, enter the FWU's Summer Sheep Hamper competition, worth £150, and pick up their FWU-Farmers Guardian 'Take the Lead' gatepost sign.

Members of the union are also invited to pick up their copy of the FWU's General Election manifesto highlights, which outlines the union's key asks of the next UK Government.

# Huge solar farms plan unveiled by authority

Report by Naomi Penrose

ONE of the UK's largest solar farms could be built in the region, under plans which would also see the need for wind farms massively reduced.

A 280-acre solar farm could be built on land at Waun Ddubarthog, near Bwlch y Sarnau, between Newtown and Rhayader, which would leave it among the largest in the country.

It is part of plans by Powys County Council to build up to 20 solar farms in the county to replace the need for wind farms.

The council's Local Development Plan said it is cutting the energy target from wind farms by 90 per cent – from 600 megawatts to 60.

The news has been greeted with "cautious celebrations" by anti-wind farm campaigners, the Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales (CPRW) which said the new proposals put emphasis on solar energy farms.

Also listed are medium-scale solar sites at Domgwyn, near Llandrindod; Heddre Hill east of Welshpool, at Styddle; at Trefen near Trefeglwys; Drysgol north of Rhayader; and Camlo Hill, also near Rhayader.

Small-scale sites proposed include Bachydrada near Tregeiriog; Abertiridw near Lake Vyrnwy; Fridd Llwydiarth near Dolanog; Buttington near Welshpool; Glynafroen near Lyn Clwydlog; Bryn Blaen near Llangurig; Bryn Tili also near Llangurig; Bwlch y Sarnau Llandegley Rhos near Llandegley; Gilwern Hill near Frank's Bridge; Nant Fawr near Lower Chapel; Llanyfalle Hill also near Lower Chapel and Dyddle near Abbeycymhr.

## Flying start for running festival



Pilot Jayson Curtis with one of the running T-shirts

THE future is bright for Wales Air Ambulance and the Royal Welsh Trail Running Festival.

A luminous orange T-shirt bearing the logo of the charity, which has a helicopter based at Welshpool, will be given to every finisher of the half marathon and 10k course at Sunday's event.

More than 800 runners will take in the stunning Welsh countryside on a series of challenging but scenic races, starting at the Royal Welsh Showground in Builth Wells – and they will not be missed once they have completed the half marathon and 10K courses.

The orange finishers T-shirt will bring an extra splash of colour to the Royal Welsh Spring Festival and remind runners to stay visible when out running the stunning Welsh trails. Wales Air Ambulance needs to raise £6.5 million every year to run its operations, with each of its life-saving missions costing around £1,500. Mark Stevens, Wales Air Ambulance fundraising manager, said: "We are grateful to be named as the lead charity for the Royal Welsh Trail Running Festival, as the donations raise will help to fund our missions across Wales."

## Grants can help farmers run business

FARMERS across Wales are being advised to apply for a Farm Business Grant from the Welsh Government to help improve the economic and environmental performance of their farms.

The call comes from Stuart Richards, a rural surveyor with leading regional land agents, valuers, estate agents and auctioneers Halls, which has an office in Welshpool.

"The Farm Business Grant provides a 40 per cent contribution towards capital investments in equipment and machinery that have been pre-identified as offering clear and quantifiable benefits to farm enterprises," he said.

"With grant applications having opened on May 2 and set to close on June 30, I would advise farmers to seriously consider any planned investments that will qualify." The minimum grant available is £3,000 and the maximum is £12,000 and only one application will be approved per business throughout the lifetime of the scheme. Farm businesses must be registered with Farming Connect before applying and have a valid Customer Reference Number (CRN) and County Parish Holding Number (CPH).

## Spotlight is on tourism industry

A WEEK-long celebration of the tourism industry in Wales has been launched.

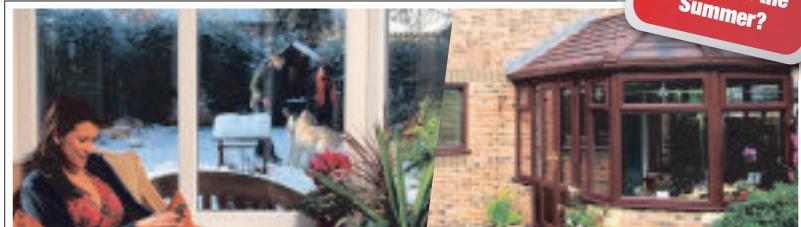
Wales Tourism Week runs until Sunday after being launched at a reception in Cardiff.

The Wales Tourism Alliance, the voice of the tourism industry in Wales, is co-ordinating a week of activities in association with Visit Wales and the tourism industry.

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## Health bosses told of 'never events'

HEALTH bosses have been told about three serious medical 'never events' at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital.

Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group said two of the never events relate to spinal surgery and one to a procedure on the wrong finger.

The events are named as such because they are incidents that guidelines say should never happen.

They have happened since July last year.

Health officials say never events are very serious incidents that are wholly preventable.

Primary care trusts are required to monitor the occurrence of never events within the services they commission. Three serious 'never events' happened at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital in October last year. They included two patients not having a guide wire removed after an invasive procedure and a patient being discharged after sinus surgery with ribbons of gauze in the nostril.

## Village's fete is set to take place

A VILLAGE fete is taking place near Oswestry this weekend.

This year's Selattyn Fete is taking place on Saturday at St Mary's Church.

Admission to the fete is free.

The fete takes place from midday to 3pm.

The event will include a barbecue, as well as cakes and plants for sale, organisers have said.

Games and pony rides will also take place throughout the afternoon during the fete.

Children coming along can also bring a teddy for the teddy bear zip line.

The proceeds which are made from the fete will be shared between St Mary's Church and Chalk CIC in Oswestry.

# Factory extension wins approval from inspector

By Sue Austin

AN INSPECTOR has given the go-ahead for an extension at one of the region's largest factories, going against a council decision to refuse permission.

Bosses at Kronospan in Chirk, near Oswestry, say the extension to house a new melamine press is needed to replace dated and inefficient machinery and represents a £20 million investment.

Residents fear the new press will add to noise and dust issues they claim come from the factory.

Wrexham County Borough Councillors had refused the application saying the extension would detract from views from historic Chirk Castle and the Llangollen Canal world heritage site.

But planning inspector Kay Sheffield overturned the refusal - but also insisted that any noise emitted from the development should not exceed specified levels.

She was told that the work had already started on site before the appeal was heard. In granting permission she said the extension would not result in significant change to the appearance of the locality or the setting of local heritage assets.

"Representations against the development also raise issues of air quality, dust, odour, noise and traffic and the consequences these have for the health of local residents," she said.

"While I do not dispute the claims made by local residents regarding the complex as a whole, several of the issues raised are controlled by separate legislation."

The inspector added: "I have no substantive evidence that the proposed development would cause air quality, dust, odour or traffic problems."

"I have imposed noise levels."



Kronospan bosses say the extension is needed to replace dated and inefficient machinery

## Businesses revealed as inspirations

TEN Shropshire companies, including two in the Oswestry area, have been named on a list of the businesses which inspire Britain.

The 1,000 Companies To Inspire Britain report is compiled annually by the London Stock Exchange, and identifies the UK's fastest-growing and "most dynamic" SMEs.

Among the businesses included on the list are sites in Telford & Wrekin, four in Shropshire, one each in Powys and Leominster, and others which are based outside the county but which own businesses in Shropshire.

Oswestry-based building services firm Landscape Piling is on the list. Care home Hengoed Park is also on the list. Xavier Rolet, chief executive of the London Stock Exchange Group, said: "The strength and diversity of these companies is readily apparent with a broad mix of UK regions and sectors represented."

"These companies are the very heart of an 'antifragile' economy: more robust; more flexible and less prone to boom and bust. We must ensure we continue doing all we can to support high growth potential businesses like these."

## Disability group is set to meet up

THIS month's meeting of Disability Oswestry (DO) will be on Wednesday next week.

The group meets at 10.30am in the downstairs back room at Hope Church, Laburnum Drive.

This month's speaker will be a representative of BOTs, the town's local stoma group.

Meetings are open to anybody interested.

More information about the group can be obtained from Penny Rice on (01691) 680382 or [disabilityoswestry161@gmail.com](mailto:disabilityoswestry161@gmail.com)

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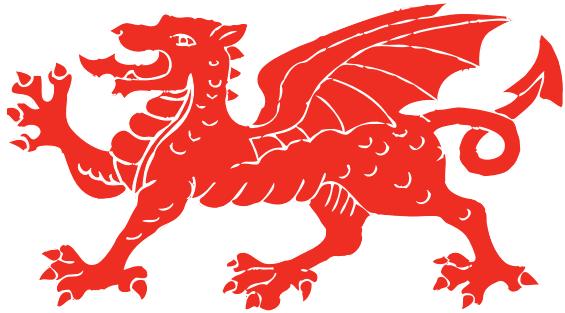
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## Crocus Walk was another success

THE Rotary Club of Oswestry's Crocus Walk in support of Rotary International's End Polio Now campaign was another success, organisers have said.

Originally due to take place on March 3, bad weather caused the postponement of the walk until April 28.

This year's walk was supported by nearly 200 primary school children from Our Lady and St Oswald's Catholic Primary School and Bellan House School.

The youngsters walked around Cae Glas Park to raise awareness and funds for the End Polio Now campaign.

Organisers give special thanks to Nikki O'Dwyer, headteacher at Our Lady and St Oswald's and Karen Lentink, head of Bellan for their support.

## Exhibition and talks on railway

TALKS and an exhibition have been organised revealing the history of the Cambrian Heritage Railways.

The exhibition at the headquarters of Shrewsbury Railway Heritage Trust, is between 10am and 4pm, on Saturday.

There will also be talks by Rob Williams, chairman of CHR, at 12.30pm and 2.30pm, which will cover the past, present and future of both the railway history of Oswestry and the aspirations and success of Cambrian Heritage Railways. The talks will include coverage of the proposals for a light rail service from Gobowen to Park Hall Halt.

The display will feature photographs and artefacts relating to Cambrian Railways, GWR and the S & M railway, and an original steam nameplate from loco 1026, Count of Salop. A spokesman for CHR said: "Our primary focus is the Oswestry area and the exhibition gives us an opportunity to reach out to people further afield."

**OSWESTRY** School Sixth Form pupils have been judged to be the best young public speakers in the UK.

The team took the honour after being victorious at the final of the Rotary Youth Speaks competition held at Thomas Telford School.

More than 2,600 teams from rotary club districts all around the country initially entered the competition.

Having progressed through three local and regional stages, Sebastian Banks, Adelina Creciu and Matthew Cooper went head to head against seven other schools in the national final.

Talks included the topics "The internet killed the music industry, or did it?" from St Columba School, Gryffe Valley to "The role of the monarchy in the 21st century" from Chigwell School, Redbridge and "What's in a name?" from Gryphon School, Shropshire.

The Oswestry team presented "Down's Syndrome - To be or not to be" and their delivery on this subject was described as "incredibly moving", "inspiring" and "passionate".

They were praised for their warmth, camaraderie and team work and are an eclectic concoction: Sebastian is the voice of reason and logic; he is composed but passionate, Matthew is warm and humorous; he provides a laugh a minute while Adelina is emotive in her delivery.

National event organiser Joyce Marston of the Rotary Club of Uppingham said: "The Oswestry School team was excellent and were deserving winners, but what competition they had.

"It really was very close, all the better for us in the audience and I had picked them out as my overall winners."

"They must have been on a high, which will add to their confidence.

"Good luck to them in all they do in



President of Oswestry Rotary Club Ian Haigh, Mayor of Telford & Wrekin Rae Evans, Sebastian Banks, Matthew Cooper, Adelina Creciu, rotary president Eve Conway and rotary district governor Molly Youd

the future, it's very bright for them." Sebastian, Adelina and Matthew have been followed and supported by a loyal group of rotary members at each round of the competition beginning with the club round held at Oswestry School, progressing to the district round at Wrexham Glyndwr University, the regional final at Darwen Vale High School and then the National Final at Thomas Telford School.

The speaking team was sponsored by Oswestry Rotary Club whose members have encouraged and supported the youngsters, their families and Oswestry School's head of English, Ruth Huish, for whom this was her first encounter with the rotary competition.

They were the victors in the senior section of Rotary Youth Speaks Great Britain and Ireland with Matthew

Cooper, 17, also voted by the judges as the best chairperson in the senior competition.

Adelina said: "I am really proud of the whole team.

"We put a lot of effort into the presentation.

"I am proud of our English teacher Mrs Ruth Huish who has really supported us."

Matthew said: "It was a team effort. We all gel together."

Sebastian added: "We were told going through that we had got into the final because of our team work and how well we work together."

Mrs Huish said: "I am extremely proud of the whole team and in particular Adelina who is still learning English.

"I am incredibly proud that she was able to tackle the topic with such spon-

taneity. Each member of the team is a very different personality."

"Matthew is a comedian and very natural and raises his performance on the day. Sebastian is a very warm speaker and very passionate about the topic which is close to his heart."

"All of them are a reflection of the school in terms of their variety of personality and the fact that we are an international boarding school."

The judges praised the performances of all seven of the national finalists in the senior competition.

Chairperson Mark Wingfield said: "It's huge congratulations to the senior teams. There were no weak performers. Every single presentation was very good."

The intermediate winner of the final was St Aloysius College, a co-educational independent school in Glasgow.

## Hospital staff pay differing parking costs

NURSES and porters pay less for parking at Shropshire's major hospitals than senior members of staff, health bosses have confirmed.

The reassurance comes amid a national row over lower-paid health workers being charged high rates to use hospital car parks.

Research by the union Unison revealed that many NHS trusts operate a flat-rate payment system for parking regardless of how much staff are paid.

However, Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust (SaTH) said that more senior members of staff pay more than the hospital's lower earners.

The highest-earning members of staff, including consultants and surgeons, currently pay £25 a month to park at the hospitals.

The lowest-earners pay £7.50 per month while the middle ranks pay £15.

A Freedom of Information request from Research by Unison found that the Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust is one of the top chargers, with full-time staff paying £85.38 a month to park at the Royal Free Hospital site.

Others, including the Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals Trust, are charged £79.50 a month.

Responses from 199 trusts across Britain also showed that some, such as SaTH, offer discounted parking for staff on lower wages, or did not charge healthcare workers to park.

Unison's head of health Christina McAnea criticised the amount some workers are having to pay. She said: "Health staff are struggling to get by on a pay rise well below the cost of living and these extortionate fees are an extra tax on their wages."

"Many NHS staff work shifts so they have to drive because they can't get buses or trains in the middle of the night. Health workers in rural areas, where public transport is virtually non-existent, are entirely dependent on their cars to get to work."

# School team wins national prize in public speaking contest

THE Rotary Club of Oswestry's Crocus Walk in support of Rotary International's End Polio Now campaign was another success, organisers have said.

Originally due to take place on March 3, bad weather caused the postponement of the walk until April 28.

This year's walk was supported by nearly 200 primary school children from Our Lady and St Oswald's Catholic Primary School and Bellan House School.

The youngsters walked around Cae Glas Park to raise awareness and funds for the End Polio Now campaign.

Organisers give special thanks to Nikki O'Dwyer, headteacher at Our Lady and St Oswald's and Karen Lentink, head of Bellan for their support.

## Exhibition and talks on railway

TALKS and an exhibition have been organised revealing the history of the Cambrian Heritage Railways.

The exhibition at the headquarters of Shrewsbury Railway Heritage Trust, is between 10am and 4pm, on Saturday.

There will also be talks by Rob Williams, chairman of CHR, at 12.30pm and 2.30pm, which will cover the past, present and future of both the railway history of Oswestry and the aspirations and success of Cambrian Heritage Railways. The talks will include coverage of the proposals for a light rail service from Gobowen to Park Hall Halt.

The display will feature photographs and artefacts relating to Cambrian Railways, GWR and the S & M railway, and an original steam nameplate from loco 1026, Count of Salop. A spokesman for CHR said: "Our primary focus is the Oswestry area and the exhibition gives us an opportunity to reach out to people further afield."

**OSWESTRY** School Sixth Form pupils have been judged to be the best young public speakers in the UK.

The team took the honour after being victorious at the final of the Rotary Youth Speaks competition held at Thomas Telford School.

More than 2,600 teams from rotary club districts all around the country initially entered the competition.

Having progressed through three local and regional stages, Sebastian Banks, Adelina Creciu and Matthew Cooper went head to head against seven other schools in the national final.

Talks included the topics "The internet killed the music industry, or did it?" from St Columba School, Gryffe Valley to "The role of the monarchy in the 21st century" from Chigwell School, Redbridge and "What's in a name?" from Gryphon School, Shropshire.

The Oswestry team presented "Down's Syndrome - To be or not to be" and their delivery on this subject was described as "incredibly moving", "inspiring" and "passionate".

They were praised for their warmth, camaraderie and team work and are an eclectic concoction: Sebastian is the voice of reason and logic; he is composed but passionate, Matthew is warm and humorous; he provides a laugh a minute while Adelina is emotive in her delivery.

National event organiser Joyce Marston of the Rotary Club of Uppingham said: "The Oswestry School team was excellent and were deserving winners, but what competition they had.

"It really was very close, all the better for us in the audience and I had picked them out as my overall winners."

"They must have been on a high, which will add to their confidence.

"Good luck to them in all they do in



President of Oswestry Rotary Club Ian Haigh, Mayor of Telford & Wrekin Rae Evans, Sebastian Banks, Matthew Cooper, Adelina Creciu, rotary president Eve Conway and rotary district governor Molly Youd

the future, it's very bright for them." Sebastian, Adelina and Matthew have been followed and supported by a loyal group of rotary members at each round of the competition beginning with the club round held at Oswestry School, progressing to the district round at Wrexham Glyndwr University, the regional final at Darwen Vale High School and then the National Final at Thomas Telford School.

The speaking team was sponsored by Oswestry Rotary Club whose members have encouraged and supported the youngsters, their families and Oswestry School's head of English, Ruth Huish, for whom this was her first encounter with the rotary competition.

They were the victors in the senior section of Rotary Youth Speaks Great Britain and Ireland with Matthew

Cooper, 17, also voted by the judges as the best chairperson in the senior competition.

Adelina said: "I am really proud of the whole team.

"We put a lot of effort into the presentation.

"I am proud of our English teacher Mrs Ruth Huish who has really supported us."

Matthew said: "It was a team effort. We all gel together."

Sebastian added: "We were told going through that we had got into the final because of our team work and how well we work together."

Mrs Huish said: "I am extremely proud of the whole team and in particular Adelina who is still learning English.

"I am incredibly proud that she was able to tackle the topic with such spon-

taneity. Each member of the team is a very different personality."

"Matthew is a comedian and very natural and raises his performance on the day. Sebastian is a very warm speaker and very passionate about the topic which is close to his heart."

"All of them are a reflection of the school in terms of their variety of personality and the fact that we are an international boarding school."

The judges praised the performances of all seven of the national finalists in the senior competition.

Chairperson Mark Wingfield said: "It's huge congratulations to the senior teams. There were no weak performers. Every single presentation was very good."

The intermediate winner of the final was St Aloysius College, a co-educational independent school in Glasgow.

# Special day for town just about here

## Commercial feature

There's nothing quite like carnival day – and the people of Welshpool know how to celebrate their carnival day in style.

The streets of Welshpool will come alive as carnival fever sweeps the town at the end of this month.

This year's Welshpool Carnival will be held on Monday, May 29 and if previous years are anything to go by, visitors and locals alike can look forward to another spectacular event.

People of all ages and from the town and from further afield support the popular community event and the carnival has become a major social event in Welshpool's calendar.

One of the high points of the event is the procession which goes through the town to mark the start of the fun proceedings.

This year the carnival procession will be leaving Berriew Street car park at 1pm and the parade will be going through the town, allowing everyone in Welshpool to get into the party spirit.

This year's procession will again be full of colour, excitement and noise.

As in previous years, the procession will have great music to entertain the crowds.

This year the star guests during the procession will be Ifton Colliery Band from St Martins near Oswestry and the Samba Agogo Band.

After a tour of the town, the procession makes its way to the Maes y Dre recreation grounds where a whole host of events and attractions will take place, starting from 2pm.

As in previous years the recreation grounds will have a huge variety of events and activities for everyone to enjoy.



Welshpool Carnival's procession always has plenty of colourful characters



The town centre comes to a standstill as the carnival procession passes by

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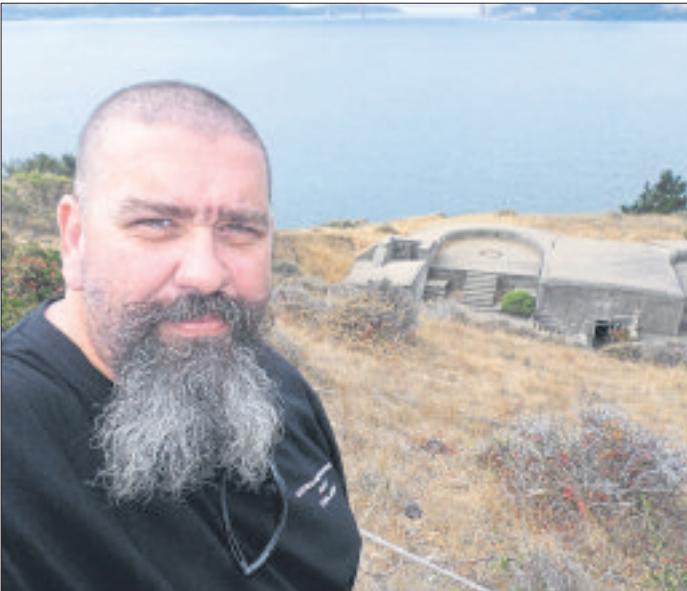
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# Aussie ghost hunter to visit



The historic Whittington Castle near Oswestry will be the centre of the ghost-hunting expedition in June



Bill Tabone, founder of the Australian Paranormal Society, is coming to Shropshire

**A PARANORMAL** enthusiast says he jumped at the chance to travel half way around the world to investigate an historic castle in Shropshire.

Bill Tabone, founder of the Australian Paranormal Society, is set to travel from Melbourne to join local investigation group Paranormal Friends to hunt for evidence of the spirit world at Whittington

## Report by Naomi Penrose

Castle, near Oswestry, at an event next month.

The 50 year old said the 'very exciting' opportunity to investigate the ancient site was something he couldn't turn down.

Mr Tabone said: 'I understand the site dates back close to 1,000 years, with fortifications being at this location from as far back as the ninth century.'

'There have also been a lot of events that have taken place in and around the location which may have created the possibility of paranormal activity.'

'There are also a few interesting legends associated with the castle that I find very interesting.'

'I love history and when the opportunity to investigate a castle such as Whittington comes around you have to jump at it.'

'Also, the chance to catch up with old friends

from Paranormal Friends is great.' Mr Tabone has led paranormal investigations at reputedly haunted locations across Australia for many years, while Paranormal Friends have investigated sites across Shropshire including the Old Abbey Infirmary, Coleham Pumping Station and Sileap Airfield.

But Mr Tabone said he couldn't wait to have the chance to investigate a building much older than those he has the chance to visit Down Under.

He said: 'There is a huge difference in the amount of historic buildings between the two countries. In Australia our oldest buildings are around 200 years old but in England some locations are thousands of years old.' Mr Tabone will join Paranormal Friends and members of the public investigating Whittington Castle on June 10.

To find out more about Paranormal Friends visit [www.paranormalfriends.co.uk](http://www.paranormalfriends.co.uk) or join their Facebook page.

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## Project looks to establish new link-up

A CYCLING, walking and bridal path could link a Shropshire town to one in Mid Wales.

Volunteer group, Montytrax has commissioned a feasibility study into the viability of a path along the old Llanfyllin to Oswestry railway line as part of its aim to put cycling, walking and horse riding on the map in the area.

It wants to attract people to the Llanfyllin area to enjoy the outdoors.

Shan Mayor, part of the group, said the pathway was one of the ideas, along with the development of the National Cycle Network into the North Montgomeryshire area through a proposed 50-mile circular route and the development of a Community Walks scheme in various communities in the area.

The study by SUSTRANS is due to be completed by the end of June.

Mrs Mayor said: "In order to raise the £5,000 for the match funding Arwain requires for the grant of £20,000 it has given to commission SUSTRANS to do the feasibility study, Montytrax is organising a Mountain Bike Challenge in the Llanfyllin area."

The registration fees of the cyclists taking part in the challenge will go towards the fundraising.

The event will take place on June 17, starting and finishing at Llanfyllin High School.

"We will cater for both the serious off-rovers and the more laid-back rider," Mrs Mayor added.

Anyone wanted to register for the event can do so at [www.britishcycling.org.uk/events/details/158093/Montytrax-Mountain-Bike-Challenge](http://www.britishcycling.org.uk/events/details/158093/Montytrax-Mountain-Bike-Challenge).

It is funded through the Rural Development Plan for Wales.

## Co-op scheme boosts groups

A £34,000 funding boost from the Co-op has helped 16 community groups in Oswestry and the borders area.

When a Co-op member buys own-brand products from food stores or a funeral plan or funeral from Funeralcare they receive a five per cent reward for themselves with a further one per cent going to local good causes. All those one per cent rewards plus the proceeds of the carrier bag charge in England, has resulted in the £34,000 pay-out in Oswestry and the border area. Nationally, 4,000 good causes are sharing a total pot of £9 million. Good causes set to benefit include Gobowen All Rounders and Oswestry Community Action.

Chief membership officer at the Co-op, Rufus Ollins, said: "The Co-op has always been community focussed. The original Rochdale Pioneers were motivated by the need to improve the living conditions of those within their local community and they also understood that values were just as important as value."

"By listening to our members we are able to identify what communities care most about and then offer support that really makes a difference, and by working with and supporting local good causes great things are happening."

The Co-op has 4.3 million active members.

## Garden club is set to meet up

THE next meeting of Trefonen Garden Club is this evening (Thursday) at 7.30pm.

Andrea Atherton, head gardener at nearby Bryngwyn Hall at Bwlch-y-Ciba, will be talking on "Poisonous Plants".

The title focuses on the very special poison garden at the hall, but she will be also giving an insight to the hall gardens and how they are managed. This promises to be an informative evening for those interested by the title as well as those interested in the gardens.

The Poison Garden is a major attraction at Bryngwyn Hall, whose summer fair is on the weekend of July 22-23.

The first of this year's club outings is on July 20 to the Ashwood Nursery and John Massey's Garden at Kingswinford leaving Trefonen at noon, with pick-ups in Morda, Oswestry and Gobowen, arriving back about 6pm, £15 to include entry.

Celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, the nursery is famous for its displays at Chelsea.

# Couple are forced to live in separate countries



Oliver Blake and Jenifer Delgado are having to live in separate countries because of a visa issue

WHEN Oliver Blake and Jenifer Delgado tied the knot 10 months ago they had no idea that their dream of starting married life in a home together in Shropshire would be no further forward today.

The couple are having to live hundreds of miles and countries apart because of the red tape of applying for a spouse visa that would allow Jenifer to live in Britain.

They say that public preconceptions about visas and immigration are very different from the real picture – and that couples in love are being prevented from living together and contributing to the British economy.

Oliver, 29, a talented athlete from Rhycroesau near Oswestry, is a marketing expert for the Shropshire-founded Net World Sports company, now based in Wrexham.

He met Jenifer, 30, who is Colombian, in 2014 when she did work experience for the company when she was completing a masters degree in business at Chester University.

The couple fell in love and were married in Shrewsbury in July last year.

Mr Blake said his wife was currently completing a second masters at university in Barcelona.

"When Jen came to Shropshire she fell in



Oliver Blake and Jenifer Delgado were married in Shrewsbury in July last year

love with the place and we agreed that we would settle down and find a house here," he said. "We had no idea at the time of how difficult that would be. Simply to apply for a UK Spouse Visa costs £1,500 plus and on top of that there is the £500 that has to be paid to the NHS and processing fees.

"Someone living in Britain on a spouse visa is not entitled to any benefits and their partner – or sponsor – must earn at least £18,600 to enable them to live here."

After completing all the paperwork the application went in on February 6.

"The Home Office says it will contact you

within 12 weeks. But we have heard nothing, not even an acknowledgement," Mr Blake said.

"Jen wants to start applying for jobs but can't because she has no idea whether the passport will be granted. One concern is, are applications being purposefully delayed in order to manipulate immigration figures. Jen is highly skilled and wants to make a contribution to the Shropshire economy by living and working here."

The Home Office refused to comment in detail, saying it will not talk on individual cases.

A spokesman said Jenifer's application was completed and she will be contacted shortly.

# Car with royal connection at annual transport event



There were some eye-catching cars on show at the festival



John Lythe polishing his bike at the transport festival being watched by Ron Parker

Report by Sue Austin

**DAIMLER** once owned by the Queen was one of the stars of a transport festival at the weekend.

The 1991 Daimler Double Six Series 3 was taken to the Cambrian Railways event in Oswestry by owner David Kelly.

Mr Kelly, from Wrexham said: "The car was supplied new to HM Queen Elizabeth II by Jaguar Cars and used between 1991 and 1995 to attend various public engagements, and also personally between Buckingham Palace and Windsor or Sandringham.

"When I bought it in 2008 there was no indication of its royal history, which was only uncovered months later through the Jaguar Daimler Heritage Trust and confirmed by the Royal press office."

The cars and motorbikes threatened to upstage the more usual attractions, the trains, at the Oswestry headquarters of the heritage railway.

Event organiser Jenny Pickstock said: "We had 31 cars and four motorbikes, and everybody was saying what a lovely atmosphere it was and how they enjoyed the exhibits and the food and the train. It was fantastic."

"There was a good range of vehicles from a Porsche to Morris Minors, and the Daimler once owned by the Queen."

"The exhibitors were mostly local, and it was really good to see how much interest there was in the event, despite the weather not being so good. We've already started planning next year's event, which will be on May 12."

"We had our steam train running during the event, as well as a shuttle bus to Llynny Station so that people could enjoy both sections of our railway."



Full steam ahead at the transport festival



Classic cars on show at Cambrian Heritage Railways' transport festival

18 Old friends to meet up as college has reunion

NORTH Shropshire College is welcoming back old students who previously studied at Walford Campus for a summer reunion evening.

The Walford Old Students Association (WOSA) has brought together former key members to sit on the reunion committee to ensure the success of the event.

The event will take place on June 24 at the Walford Sports Hall, which will be transformed into an elegant venue. The evening will start at 6.45pm for drinks and will give guests the chance to reminisce and catch up with familiar faces ready for a sit down two-course dinner at 8pm.

The WOSA committee members who are taking part in the planning and organisation of the event include Rob Cooke, former chairman of WOSA, David Nightingale a well-known Walford lecturer, Sam Goddard and Stewart Edwards who are both past chairs of WOSA, Sarah Bayliss, previous secretary, plus representatives from the college.

The evening event will include a delicious two course dinner with wine, an entertaining live band, a disco for everyone to have a dance, plus the bar will be open until late. There is also a promise auction and raffle which will take place and the event theme is "dress to impress".

One of the main aims of the event is to raise money for the R D Park Trust, a registered college charity that raises money to support students with course-related trips and visits. Tickets can be purchased individually via Eventbrite at a cost of around £35 per person, or if people would like to purchase a table of 10, there is a discounted group rate at £325.

For more information contact marketing@nsc.ac.uk.

Report by Naomi Penrose

**MORE** motorists have been caught drink-driving or refusing to be breathalysed in May than in December, the month traditionally associated with drinking and partying, new figures have revealed.

The findings, obtained via a Freedom of Information request to 45 police forces across the UK, show an unreported trend identifying May as the month where a higher percentage of drivers test positive for drink-driving compared with any other month of the year.

The data focuses on the number of drink-driving road stops in the UK in 2014, 2015 and 2016.

It shows a higher proportion of motorists are caught drink-driving in May than over the festive period, with 15 per cent of drivers testing positive or refusing to be breathalysed.

In fact, the figure is almost four times higher than December where four per cent of drivers tested positive or refused a test in the month traditionally associated with drinking and partying.

In our region the Dyfed-Powys Police force area was the worst for drivers testing positive or refusing a test during the month of May between 2014 and 2016, with that figure standing at 14.8 per cent.

For the West Mercia Police force area, which covers Oswestry, that figure stood at 11 per cent.

The North Wales Police zone was the lowest in our region – at nearly eight per cent.

PEOPLE from Welshpool and Oswestry are expected to be among the many travelling to this year's Royal Welsh Spring Festival this weekend.

Taking place at the showground in Llanelwedd, Builth Wells, the festival is a weekend-long celebration of smallholding and rural life.

The two-day festival, with its action-packed programme of entertainment, have-a-go educational activities, talks, workshops, displays and performances, offers the perfect family day out.

The event takes place on Saturday and Sunday and organisers have lined up a feast of attractions. With

over 1,300 livestock and horses on display, hundreds of trade stands, the only Premier Open Dog Show held in Wales, children's activities, a food and drink quarter, the Royal Welsh Trail Running Festival, vintage machinery, gardening, auction, country leisure and much more, the event has something for everyone.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Centre offering job search help

A NEW supported volunteering service for people who are unemployed and looking to get back to work is starting in Oswestry.

Qube's Volunteer Centre will be running the new service to help people to find a suitable role that matches their interests and personal development goals.

The centre will also offer advice and guidance on how to support volunteers, as well as those who have never worked or that have been out of work for a long period of time.

The Building Better Opportunities programme is being funded by the Big Lottery Fund and the European Social Fund.

Building Better Opportunities will support projects in England that tackle poverty and promote social inclusion.

Anyone interested in the service can pop into Qube on Oswald Road, Oswestry.

Alternatively, you can call (01691) 656882 or go online and visit [qube-oca.org.uk](http://qube-oca.org.uk) for more information.

### BT axing jobs in wake of scandal

BT Group is to axe 4,000 jobs and has stripped its boss of his annual bonus in the wake of an accounting scandal in its Italian division.

The telecoms giant said the jobs would go as part of the restructuring of its global services, group functions and technology, services and operations (TSO), saving around £300m over two years. BT employs 440 people at its Worldwide Network Management Centre in Oswestry, which includes part of the TSO division, and it has 380 across two sites in Shrewsbury. Boss Gavin Patterson will see his pay packet fall from £5.3 million to £1.3 million after losing his bonus.

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## Entertainment galore at festival



The festival will be open later into the evening on Saturday for visitors to enjoy the music



# PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY  
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## Charming detached house is in desirable residential area

A charming three-bedded detached house in a desirable residential area on the outskirts of town, 32 Hampton Rise, Oswestry, is for sale through Bowen Son & Watson at £335,000.

The ground floor includes large spacious rooms whilst the first floor includes a large family bathroom. The accommodation briefly comprises an entrance porch, entrance hall, cloakroom/WC, a dining room, a lounge, a kitchen/breakfast room, utility room, three bedrooms and a family bathroom.

The property stands on an excellent plot with mature front and rear gardens, a driveway and double garage. Oil central heating and double glazing are installed throughout. In more detail, the home is approached over a tarmac driveway. The entrance hall has laminate flooring, stairs to the first floor and the cloakroom/WC off. The dining room has a feature fireplace housing an electric coal-effect fire and a door opening into the lounge. This also has a feature fireplace with a coal-effect fire and sliding patio doors into the rear garden.

Having a full range of matching base units and eye level wall cupboards, the kitchen/breakfast room has a fitted Belling range with a four-ring and hot plate, double oven and grill, extractor hood over and an integrated fridge and freezer.

Having tiled flooring, the utility room has plumbing for a washing machine and tumble dryer. Upstairs, as well as the three bedrooms is the bathroom. Originally two rooms, this space now offers an excellent bathroom with a panelled bath with a shower attachment, a shower cubicle with electric shower, having a fully tiled surround and folding seat, pedestal wash hand basin and bidet.

The property is situated within walking distance of the busy market town of Oswestry. The town itself has an excellent range of shops, schools and other amenities and is surrounded by picturesque countryside. There is easy access on to the A5/A483 which provides direct routes to the towns of Shrewsbury, Wrexham and the City of Chester.

The nearby train station at Gobowen provides direct links to Manchester and Birmingham. A town bus service operates in this area.

### KEY FEATURES

Detached house

Three bedrooms

Desirable residential location

Outskirts of town

Excellent plot

OSWESTRY £335,000



### TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Bowen Son & Watson

TEL: 01691 652367

EMAIL: [oswestry@bowensonandwatson.co.uk](mailto:oswestry@bowensonandwatson.co.uk)



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OSWESTRY

£420,000

## Superb spacious executive property has seven bedrooms

A superbly spacious executive detached residence, 15 Upperwell Close, Oswestry has seven bedrooms, three reception rooms and four bathrooms.

It is for sale through Town & Country at £420,000. Enjoying an enviable position within this most sought after location with superb views to the rear, its accommodation briefly comprises a porch, hallway, cloakroom, lounge, dining room, kitchen/dining room, study, utility room, seven bedrooms, two ensuite and two family bathrooms. To the outside there are gardens to the front and the rear with views. A detached double garage and double width driveway provides off-road parking. The property is situated in a sought after residential area of Oswestry, with close proximity to the town centre, with an abundance of shops and supermarkets.



A secondary school, primary school and doctors surgery are within walking distance. The property is also only a few minutes walk from open countryside.

In more detail the porch has quarry tiled flooring. The hallway has stairs off and an under-stairs storage cupboard. The cloakroom/WC has part tiled splashbacks. A lovely light room, the lounge has a large bay window with glazed side panels and French doors opening onto the rear garden, a decorative stone cast fireplace with an electric fire and French doors to the garden. The good sized dining room has a large square bay window to the front. In the kitchen/dining room, the kitchen has an extensive range of base and wall kitchen units in an oak colour with work surfaces over, integral wine fridge, integral Whirlpool dishwasher, 1½ bowl sink with mixer tap, Whirlpool double stainless steel oven, gas hob, integral extractor fan, tiled flooring, integral fridge/freezer, under unit lighting and part tiled walls. The study is positioned at the front and the utility has a sink, units, plumbing for a washing machine, space for a fridge and a door to the rear. Upstairs on the first floor, the master bedroom has wardrobes, a dressing table and an en-suite. There are five further bedrooms (one en-suite) and a bathroom on this floor. On the second floor are bedrooms six and seven and a bathroom. The rear garden is a particular feature of the property due to its size and orientation. It has a paved patio across the rear of the house, extensive lawn and views over the top of Oswestry and the far reaching hills beyond.

Contact Town and Country on 01691 679631.

## Recently completed four bedrooomed barn conversion offers 'wow' factor

KYNASTON

£575,000

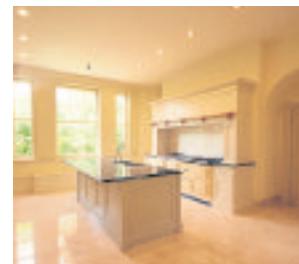
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Packed with the "wow factor", Treginfold Barn in the hamlet of Kynaston near Kinnerley is a recently completed four bedroom barn conversion within equidistance of some 10 miles to Oswestry and Shrewsbury.

It is for sale through Balfours at £575,000. Agent, Duncan Scobie, of Balfours said: "This is an exceptionally well designed conversion. While it dates back to the mid-1800s, its' recently completed conversion provides a magic mix of character and contemporary. That is maximised through original oak timbers quite literally highlighted through the magnificent expanses of glazing."

The wow factor is made the most of on the first floor with a magnificent gallery landing open to the glazed frontage. The master bedroom comes with fitted wardrobes and an en-suite, a further two bedrooms share the family bathroom. Duncan added: "The conversion has been beautifully executed with excellent craftsmanship and use of materials. At ground level there is underfloor heating with oak or limestone tiled floors throughout."

Contact Balfours on 01743 353511.



## Super Georgian country house has lawns and tennis court

OSWESTRY

£1,250,000

&lt;&lt;&lt;

A fully restored Georgian country house adjoining parkland and open countryside, Pen-y-Llan Hall on the edge of Oswestry is for sale through Bowen Son & Watson at £1,250,000.

It has a vestibule, entrance hall, inner hall, drawing room, study, morning room, dining room, conservatory, cloakroom/WC, sitting room, playroom, kitchen, utility room, pantry and cellars.

It also has a master bedroom with dressing room and en-suite bathroom, four further bedrooms all en-suite, bedroom six, dressing room, two attic rooms, a bathroom, detached former annexe with planning permission for a workshop, stores, kitchen, cloakroom/WC, garaging and domestic buildings.

There are also lawned gardens and a tennis court and woodland of around 2.8 acres.

Contact Bowen Son & Watson on 01691 652367.

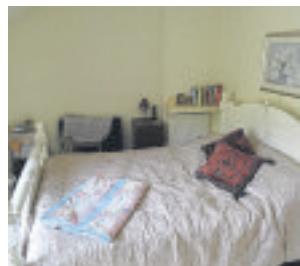
## Spacious town house is sited in a quiet position near amenities

OSWESTRY  
£159,950 >>>

A spacious town house with off-street parking, 24 Beresford Gardens in Oswestry is located in a quiet position within walking distance of the town centre.

It is on the market through JJ Dell&Co with a guide price of £159,950 and there is no chain. The property benefits from gas fired central heating and there is an entrance hall, cloakroom, living room, kitchen, bathroom, two bedrooms, front garden and two parking spaces. The property occupies a convenient position within the town only a few minutes walking distance into the town's shopping centre. The home is an end-terraced house traditionally constructed of brick under a slated roof. The accommodation has the benefit of recently recovered roof, gas fired central heating and pvc double glazing. Outside the property has the benefit of off street parking to the front, providing two spaces.

Contact JJ Dell&Co on 01691 653437 and 680212.



## Superb cottage with balcony is in location on edge of forest

LLANGADFAN  
£169,950 <<<

Bliss Cottage, 4 Hendre, Llangadfan, is a delightfully charming two-bedroomed semi-detached cottage in a beautiful location on the edge of Dyfnant Forest.

Having a balcony, separate lounge and dining room, kitchen and wet room, it is for sale through Morris Marshall & Poole at £169,950.

A number of external items may be available by separate negotiation including a wood fired hot tub, an attractive insulated "Hobbit House" with wood stove, a large timber shed and a timber potting shed/greenhouse.

From the paved patio the gardens lead across the front of the house with a raised lawn in a sunny position with good views. A pathway then leads to large side gardens with woodland beyond.

There is a stream-fed pond and a second still pond.

Contact Morris Marshall & Poole on 01691 679595 for more information.



## Well presented bungalow in highly desirable village

GUILSFIELD  
£149,500

Avondale, 24 Chepstow, Guilsfield near Welshpool, comprises a neat, well presented and highly desirable two bedroom semi-detached bungalow set in a hugely popular residential village.

It is on the market through Halls for £149,500.

The property looks out over the large grassed area to the front elevation which is aesthetically very pleasing and an ideal place to take the dog for a stroll or let the children/grandchildren have a game of football or a good run around. There is no real passing traffic other than the neighbours as the road comes to an end after the last property.

The accommodation is well laid out and the main room is of a good size. The property has the benefit of gas fired central heating and double glazing, and is for sale with no upward chain.

The agents strongly recommend a viewing. Avondale is set on a popular village estate within the heart of the semi-rural village of Guilsfield and within easy, flat



walking distance to the village amenities. The highly popular residential village of Guilsfield lies only 3.5 miles from the town of Welshpool. Welshpool has a fairly comprehensive range of amenities and a strong local rural economy. The village of Guilsfield is popular with commuters with Shrewsbury 22 miles away, leading onto Telford, M54 and M6, and Oswestry 14 miles leading onto Chester and M56 to the North.

Guilsfield itself has an unusually good range of village facilities including two public houses, garage, Hardings Petrol & Garden Supply Store, church, highly regarded primary school, doctor's surgery, village hall, Derwen Garden Centre and a convenience shop, together with an unending amount of country walks.

Contact Halls on 01938 555552.





## Perfect chance to bag a bargain home at auction

Purchasing at auction can be risky, but it can also be a great way to bag a bargain renovation project says Julia Gray

● The first step is to find auction houses that sell properties in the area you're looking in. London auctions have properties in London and the Home Counties, but often also much further afield. Outside London, auction houses are more likely to specialise in local properties.

Once you've found an auction house, get on its mailing list for auction catalogues. The catalogue should be available a few weeks before the auction, and will have viewing times, guide prices and conditions of sale.

● Legal documents for each lot should be available to download from the auction house's website. Read them carefully and send them to your solicitor, as they could affect how high you bid and if you bid at all.

Searches are often included in the legal documents, but if they're not, ask your solicitor to do them before the auction, although this could, of course, be a waste of money.

The same applies to a survey – if you don't want to pay for one on a property you may not buy, ask a good builder to view the property with you. Houses and flats being sold at auction often require modernisation, and not being aware of the full extent of the work required could prove very costly.

● Research the local housing market before the auction so you know how much the property is worth, and decide on your maximum bid accordingly.

The temptation at auctions is to get carried away and bid higher than your maximum. If you're worried about this, get someone to bid for you, or bid by proxy, where you authorise the auction house to bid on your behalf up to a specified limit.

● Before the auction, check what ID you need to register to bid and what methods of payment are accepted for the deposit. If you're the successful bidder, you'll have to exchange contracts and pay a deposit (usually 10 per cent of the purchase price) and a fee to the auction house immediately.

The completion date is often four weeks from the date of the auction, but it can vary. If you fail to complete on that date, you could lose your deposit and even be sued by the seller. For this reason, paying cash is a much safer way to buy property at auction than with a mortgage.

● The guide price is the price the auction house expects the property to sell for, but properties often fetch much more. Lots will usually have a reserve price and only the auction house knows what it is.

If the bidding doesn't reach the reserve, it may be possible to do a deal with the seller, via the auction house, on the day. You can check online after the auction to see which properties didn't sell – it usually says the price they're available for.

You may also be able to buy a property before the auction, but many sellers will refuse because they know prices can leap up in the heat of the moment.

# Changing housing market trends lead to shift in age of borrowers

Home ownership in the UK is changing in response to economic, demographic and housing market trends, making borrowing into older age more common, new research has found.

The independent study from the International Longevity Centre and the Building Societies Association reveals that for people aged over 65 mortgage debt is set to double by 2030, rising by more than £19 billion.

It explains that changes to housing market dynamics are being driven by low real wage growth, house price inflation, low supply of new homes and rising student debt as building societies are seeing a rise in mortgages for older customers.

During 2016 the proportion of new mortgages from the sector with a term beyond age 65 rose from 34 per cent to 38 per cent and a significant shift in the customer base of the mortgage market is predicted over the next 13 years.

### Evolution

It points out that the mortgage market is witnessing a marked evolution from the traditional route of individuals buying their first homes in their 20s, trading up in their 30s and 40s, paying off debt in their 50s and 60s and then entering older age with little or no mortgage debt.

Since the financial crisis, home ownership amongst 20 to 29 year olds has fallen from 53 per cent to 38 per cent and for those between 30 and 39 years old home ownership has fallen from 73 per cent to 65 per cent.

Today, many first-time buyers are delayed getting on the property ladder by factors including low supply of new homes and higher house prices, greater student debt, persistent low real income growth and challenges in saving for a deposit.

As the home ownership life cycle shifts, the time of life by which mortgages are paid off is shifting too, the research shows that over six per cent, or 1.42 million people aged 35 to 64, will not have paid off their mortgage before retirement given the current term of their loan.



If nothing changes, it will become more common for consumers to buy for the first time in their late 30s or 40s, with longer mortgage terms from the outset.

They will be more likely to trade up later in life and repay at least part of the mortgage from retirement income or draw more to fund needs in later life. By 2030, the report projects that £3.3 trillion or 58 per cent of all housing wealth in the UK will be owned by the over 65s.

The first question for national policymakers, including Government, is whether action should be taken to try and maintain the traditional market. In my view the socio-economic changes lenders and consumers are already experiencing are unstoppable.

"So instead the focus must be on adapting to a changing market," said Paul Broadhead, head of mortgage policy at the BSA.

"Top priority must be given to radically increasing housing supply across all tenures, including recognising shared ownership as a tenure in its own right. We must also respond as an industry to reflect the changing needs of customers," he pointed out.

"This will include an increasingly intergenerational approach to home ownership, as parents and grandparents borrow to release some of their housing wealth to support the younger generation.

### Change

"It is the combination of multiple factors that will drive greater levels of mortgage borrowing in later life," he added.

The report also explains that this shift in the housing market is part of a wider cultural change in how people live our lives. With life expectancy having significantly increased, those who are 65 today can expect to live to 90.

People today are also working longer, currently one in 10 people aged over 65 are employed.

Due to these factors, as the population ages and people become more prosperous and likely to work for longer, there will be a greater capacity for people to borrow into older age.

"The housing market must better adapt to our ageing society, building more homes for all ages across a range of tenures," said Ben Franklin from the International Longevity Centre-UK.

"Over the course of a lifetime, including in retirement, consumers will need to have access to the right mortgage products and advice in order to maximise their long run financial wellbeing.

"Building societies have made a good start in this regard, but, this is a whole of market challenge that will ultimately need whole of market solutions," he added.

## Growth in number of buyers with a small deposit

The proportion of buyers in the UK with small deposits, usually first-time buyers, securing mortgages is rising, up for the third month in a row, according to the latest lending monitor report.

They made up 21.4 per cent of the mortgage market in March, up from 16.1 per cent in December 2016, the data from the report from residential chartered surveyors e.surv shows.

However, the overall size of the market has shrunk both compared with the previous month and the same stage in 2016.

There were 64,695 loans approved in March 2017 compared to 66,911 in February, a 5.3 per cent fall and 7.7 per cent lower than a year ago.

### Share

"Small deposit buyers, who are often first-time buyers, have seen their share of the market grow despite the overall market shrinking between February and March.

"This is a trend which started at the end of last year and has continued into 2017, likely buoyed by the number of Government schemes and low mortgage rates," said Richard Sexton, director of e.surv chartered surveyors.

"A more first-time buyer-oriented market is good news for all as new buyers help start chains and allow others to move up the housing ladder which is vital for a properly functioning property market," he pointed out.

The proportion of loans made to home buyers with



large deposits remained below 35 per cent for a second successive month, but these borrowers still outstrip their small deposit counterparts by a considerable margin.

Defined as those buyers with a deposit of 60 per cent or more, the report says that these larger deposit borrowers made up 34.4 per cent of the market in March, down slightly on the 34.7 per cent ratio found in February, but the underlying trend is away from this segment of the market.

"Buyers with the biggest deposits are always likely to dominate the mortgage market. Lenders see them as lower risk and will typically readily lend to these customers above all others."

"But with rates so low and competition so fierce, many lenders are choosing to target other parts of the market."

"This is helping borrowers with smaller deposits get finance. Even in a smaller overall market, there are more small deposit buyers than last month," Sexton explained.

# A pleasant time of year

THE month of May is arguably the most pleasant of the year.

The temperatures are neither cold nor stifling and it seems almost every species of flora and fauna are at their peak in the countryside.

The spring flush of grass growth is already over and now pastures and wild meadows become thick with leaf and stem.

However far from it being a monotonous carpet of dull greens.

The diversity of flowers and grasses provides a spectacular show in those areas that have been spared agricultural intensification.

Among the floral gems at this time of the year are the yellow rattle, dandelions, buttercup species, meadow vetch and oxeye daisy.

## Interesting

These are sometimes accompanied by common spotted orchids and a whole range of interesting grasses, sedges and rushes.

Below these feed voles, shrews and mice and quartering these fields at dusk you may be lucky enough to catch a glimpse of a barn owl, itself busy feeding its young.

On the chalky downs, where floral diversity is at its best in the countryside, the colours and scents are complemented by the brilliance and beauty of the some of the early blue butterfly species feeding amongst the flowers.

Other butterfly species begin to emerge as the late spring and early summer continues, occasionally joined by a hummingbird hawkmoth blown in off the continent.

In the woods the dawn chorus is at its peak now, in the early days of the month and although often dominated by the strident calls of the wren, robin, blackbird and

## ON THE WILDSIDE

with Ben Waddams



thrush, species such as wood warblers and chiffchaffs are a welcome addition to the ensemble.

Listen out too for the shrill piping of the nuthatch.

Any stand of mature trees, usually oaks, will hold one or two of these beautiful but infrequently seen birds.

These little birds are often called small woodpeckers and indeed at this time of the year they are busy nesting usually in old woodpecker holes.

But of course a large entrance hole fit for a woodpecker, is far too big for a nuthatch and can lead to predation from, among other predators, woodpeckers.

Therefore the female plasters it with mud, building up the rim and reducing the size of the entrance.

Studies have shown that where the female puts in the most time and effort to create as small a hole as possible, then there is a greater chance of nesting (and fledging) success.

This process can take up to four weeks to complete – one of the lengthiest of all nest building times among the “garden birds”.

Woods are not just a good place to see the blue of the nuthatch or that (on their borders and beyond) of the first blue butterflies, but also that of the bluebell, one of the most eagerly anticipated of the year’s natural events. The presence of these plants carpeting the earth below mighty oaks and beech trees is a sight and smell not to be missed this month.



Nuthatches are often regarded as “small woodpeckers”

# Fire service to see £2million cut from its budget

FIREFIGHTERS will see £2 million cut from their budget over the next four years, it has emerged.

The 28 per cent budget cut to Shropshire Fire Authority, which runs the county's fire service, was revealed by the Fire Brigades Union, which branded the changes “savage”.

According to the union, it is the highest percentage cut to a fire authority's budget in the country, tied only with Hereford & Worcester.

Malcolm Stevenson, a spokesman for Shropshire Fire Authority, confirmed the figures are correct.

He said: “We the fire authority, anticipated these reductions well in advance and a plan has been put in place that will ensure our delivery of service up to 2020 and beyond that.”

The cuts come as part of the Department for Communities and Local Government's Local Government Settlement, providing figures for the central grant allocated to metropolitan and combined fire authorities in England.

Under the settlement, Shropshire Fire Authority's income from central government will fall from £7.2 million in the year 2015/16, to £5.2 million by 2019/20. Fire authorities generally raise their income through central government funding and council tax.

In its bulletin, a spokesman for the Fire Brigades Union said: “The central point is that these figures are very bad news – a 20 per cent cut overall – more of the same.”

“Once again they show that the fire and rescue service has not been protected.

“In some cases, fire authorities will lose a quarter of their central revenue over the next four years.”

“What this government and its predecessor have done to the fire and rescue service is a travesty.”

“They have axed 10,000 firefighter jobs across the UK during the last seven years – about one fifth of the workforce.”

“At a time of increasing risks from an ageing population, flooding and various other emergencies, they are tearing up the fabric of our communities. It's about time politicians raised their voices in protest.”

Across the country, other fire authorities will see similar cuts. In Cheshire, the service will have its funding cut by more than £4 million – or 23 per cent while the West Midlands Service will see its cut by some 15 per cent.

Shropshire Fire Service was first put into financial difficulties by Government austerity measures which have slashed at least £3.2 million from its £20 million annual budget since 2010. A total of 10 per cent of firefighters and support staff jobs have gone.

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## Residents are warned over phone scam

RESIDENTS are being warned to keep an eye out for telephone scam artists posing as technical repair specialists – even claiming to be from well-known businesses.

People in Chirk are being warned by Wrexham Trading Standards, after a telephone scam incident which saw a resident lose hundreds of pounds after falling victim to bogus tech experts.

The resident was cold-called by a scammer claiming to be from BT, telling him that his laptop was infected with a virus and required cleaning.

The victim provided the scammers remote access to his laptop and bank account. The callers went on to withdraw money from the resident's account and applied for a loan in his name.

Roger Mapleson, team leader at Wrexham Trading Standards, said: "There is no way scammers could know whether or not your laptop, computer or any other device has a virus."

"They tend to add weight to their claims by pretending to be from a big company, such as BT, Microsoft or Apple – but these companies never carry out such calls. These callers can be very convincing, and if caught busy with other things, your guard could be down."

He added: "Simply put, never give anyone you don't trust access to your bank account and never give them information on your computer or laptop. Technology means it is easier than ever for them to remotely link to your machine with just a few key pieces of information, allowing them to steal what they want." If you think you have been the victim of a scam, contact your bank immediately. To report a crime, contact North Wales Police on 101.

## Hospital park total revealed

VISITORS and staff have paid out more than £4 million to park at Shropshire's main hospitals in the past three years.

Parking fees at Royal Shrewsbury Hospital and Princess Royal Hospital Telford have amounted to £4.3 million between 2013/14, and 2015/16.

Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust says the money raised through parking fees is reinvested in the hospital, with £1 million enough to pay for about 30 nurses for a year.

Figures revealed in a Freedom of Information request show that in 2013/14 members of the public paid £977,567 to park at the hospitals, while staff paid £311,738.

In 2014/15 the public paid £1,057,320 and staff £427,436, with the corresponding figures for 2015/16 being £1,029,292 and £496,448. Earlier this year the trust said its parking charges were among the lowest in the country. It also stressed that discount parking is available for some patients, and the first 30 minutes of parking is also free.

And people receiving certain treatment or on a visit linked to a bereavement could also park for free.

The number of parking tickets issued at the hospitals has risen sharply in the last year, with the figure more than doubling.

## Rotarians back therapy scheme

OSWESTRY rotarians have given their support to the Pets as Therapy organisation.

Therapy petting dog Rolo was recently brought by his owner Val Howell to a meeting of the Oswestry Borderland Rotary Club.

Club spokesman Geoff Barre said: "He is one of around 30 in the local area who have been vetted as having a suitable temperament for visiting people who benefit from Rolo's willingness to be petted and fussed and befriended. His owner Val Howell brought Rolo to Borderland Rotary recently where he made 30 new friends and president John Croft presented a cheque for £150 to Val's organisation, Pets as Therapy (PAT) is a national organisation, set up in 1983, which has provided 250,000 dogs since then and currently has around 250 active members. Anyone who would like to join the scheme or book a visit from a therapy pet can contact Val Howell on (01691) 659915."

## Talented girls have a ball at sports tournament



Students from The Marches School listening to a talk by Josie Janz-Dawson



The students from The Marches School who went on the Disneyland netball trip

TALENTED netball players from an Oswestry school have been honing in their skills by taking part in a tournament in France.

Over the Easter holiday, 40 students from The Marches School went to Disneyland in Paris to take part in an England Netball tournament.

Students were lucky enough to receive a

training session delivered by England Netball and listened to a talk by Severn Stars Vitality Netball Superleague player Josie Janz-Dawson. At the tournament, two of The Marches School netball teams got through to the top finals. The final results were: Under 16 A: 6th place, Under 16 B: 5th place, Under 14 A: 6th place, Under 14 B 2nd place and Under 12 A:

8th place. The Under 12 team won 'Most Determined Team' throughout the tournament and the whole team were awarded the 2017 International Junior Netball Festival Umpires 'Spirit of the Game' Award.

On the second day The Marches School won a dance off and the school's Lisa Bladen came second in the teachers' dance off. During the

afternoon, students had free time in Disneyland which was celebrating its 25th anniversary.

Sian Cooke, PE teacher, said: "The level of netball played was fantastic and our students' determination is to be credited.

"We are very proud of the girls and we are looking forward to our next netball trip."

## Students carry out research projects on trip to Africa



An elephant the students saw on their tour in South Africa



Student Harriett Bailey working on her dung beetle research during the field trip

### Report by Sue Austin

NORTH Shropshire College animal science students have returned from an educational trip to South Africa after having the opportunity to participate in a research study tour.

The students travelled with students from South Staffordshire College.

The group stayed at the Mankwe Game Reserve in North West Province; a dedicated field education and research site. The team at the reserve were extremely knowledgeable and supportive by helping the students complete their projects, alongside teaching them about the fascinating natural history of South Africa.

The students took part in a wide range of research activities including bird spotting, game walks and soil sampling. Student Harriett Bailey said: "The South Africa trip was action-packed and a brilliant learning experience."

"I collected research on dung beetle behaviour and as a result, I have been asked to share these findings with a wider research programme."

The data collected by the students is now being used in their own projects to draw conclusions of their work.

Animal care lecturer Nick Saxby said: "This was such a great opportunity for our animal science students, it has inspired many of them to undertake further research in the future."

The students also had the chance to explore South African culture by visiting a local community market with local rangers and also visited the Pilanesberg National Park where the students were able to watch elephants, hippos and other iconic wildlife species.



Students on a walking tour in South Africa



Student Rhian Ward setting up North Shropshire College's camera trap

# The Ticket

## STAGE FRIGHT: THE WOMAN IN BLACK

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# When the audience screams, it's fantastic

**S**tephen Mallatratt's adaptation of Susan Hill's best-selling novel, *The Woman In Black*, has terrified more than million theatregoers since it first opened in the West End.

Robin Herford's gripping production is a brilliantly successfully study in atmosphere, illusion and controlled horror.

The unanimously acclaimed stage production is on the road and will arrive at the Grand Theatre, in Wolverhampton, from Monday until May 27.

The touring cast features David Acton, as Mr Kipps, and Matthew Spencer, as The Actor.

The production's popularity has reached a global level, having toured the United States, South America, Tokyo and Singapore.

In 2012, Susan's novel *The Woman in Black* was turned into a film starring Daniel Radcliffe, which became the highest grossing British horror movie in 20 years. The sequel to that, *The Woman in Black 2: Angel Of Death*, came out in 2014.

It tells the story of a lawyer obsessed with a curse that he believes has been cast over him and his family by the spectre of a Woman in Black. He engages a young actor to help him tell his story and exorcise the fear that grips his soul. It begins innocently enough, but as they delve further into his darkest memories, they find themselves caught up in a world of eerie marshes and moaning winds. The borders between make believe and reality begin to blur and the flesh begins to creep.

We caught up with David and Matthew to find out what makes them leap out of their skin – and what they love about *The Woman in Black*.

#### Do you believe in ghosts?

Matthew Spencer: "For me, I would say 'ghosts? No way . . .' but I really like to think they're real. I don't like being in the stage right wing of the Fortune Theatre, where *The Woman In Black* plays in London. It's a little bit cold . . ."

#### What do you think it is about *The Woman in Black* that keeps people returning for second, third or more visits?

David Acton: "There's certainly the chill factor, which people love but there are so many reasons. It's a brilliant play, it's extraordinary, and probably cleverer than the writer Stephen Mallatratt had anticipated. What comes out of nothing, an empty theatre arises this beautifully written story with a myriad of different characters and locations all created by the imagination. It's a touching and moving story with a great sadness about it – there's loss, shrieks and bumps along the way but there are laughs and pleasure along the way and the theatricality brings all of that together perfectly."

Matthew Spencer: "You can see the film and you can read the book but this live experience is something you won't get from either of those – there's something magical about the fact that just two people and a few props can create the different settings and play all the characters."

#### Having played in the small 450 seat Fortune Theatre in London, do you think the dynamic of the play will differ when toured to much larger theatres in the country?

Matthew Spencer: "I think each new venue will bring something entirely new to the piece, for us as well as the audience. The show is very much part of the Fortune Theatre now, but taking it out on tour will be interesting to see what more space or less space does."

David Acton: "I always say for any actor it's important to tour, because if you've played big, small, wide, tall, thin, deep stages you get a real knowledge for how to work different venues."

#### Whereas horror films are very common, horror plays are almost unheard of. How difficult is it to recreate the horror on stage that can be done rather easily with a computer in a film?

Matthew Spencer: "The play is so well written that a lot of the horror comes right from the text. The start of the play is quite light, it's an opportunity for us as actors to get the audience on board. By the time we start to build

The big chill – Matthew Spencer is in *The Woman in Black*



up the tension we've hopefully all had a bit of fun, we're all on the same side and then you can really start to get down to business! It's so well constructed that I never feel a pressure to make anyone scared, that just happens. I get excited for, because I know what's coming, and I find that if the audience are laughing loudly at the beginning they're usually screaming loudly half way through!"

#### Is it fun for you, seeing the audience react?

David Acton: "It's great, the screams are fantastic, particularly when we have school groups in! The book is on the curriculum so it's quite often that we'd have a school's matinee and they love to scream and so they scream again, look at each other and scream again!"

Matthew Spencer: "Equally, it does terrify adults! The reactions are all part of it, and help make it what it is and we live for those moments. It's great to see the power of live theatre working and having the desired effect."

#### Is there anything in the production that scares you, as actors?

Matthew Spencer: "What scares me more than anything is the theme of the play. I know what's coming and when so for me it's about the loss that the story centres around. The first time we ever did a full run-through on stage at the Fortune Theatre was rather scary, I was genuinely scared with all of the sounds and the lights and I think the people who worked on the show enjoyed making the most of that. Now we're settled into it, I take enjoyment from the audience reactions!"

*I don't have nightmares but some actors have had horrible ones*

#### Do you have any post-show rituals that help you to recover from what you've just been through?

Matthew Spencer: "I've mentioned that the structure of the play helps to make the most of the scary moments but in equal parts it helps in a sense that we reach a conclusion. It's a very rounded play, we've told the full circle – there's nothing hanging or unfinished so we're quite satisfied when we're done."

David Acton: "I certainly don't have nightmares but I've heard stories from past actors who have had horrible ones!"

● *The Woman in Black* is at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Monday (May 22) until May 27. Tickets are available in person at the Box Office, by calling 01902 429212 or online at [www.grandtheatre.co.uk](http://www.grandtheatre.co.uk)



# New theatre season set to wow the fans

**C**OMEDIAN Joel Dommett and M People singer Heather Small are among the acts lined up to appear at Theatre Severn over the next few months.

The Shrewsbury theatre's new summer programme of shows and lectures will draw audiences from far and wide, bosses said.

From top notch comedians to big names and faces, amateur dramatics and some of the best known acts in the country, the theatre has a whole range of performers lined-up.

Former X Factor runner up and Dancing on Ice champ Ray Quinn will be leading the pack when he takes to the stage alongside former Emmerdale star Roxanne Pallett in *The Wedding Singer* from September 12 to 16.

On September 22, two Strictly champions, will be dancing up a storm with a live band in the auditorium.

Jay McGuiness and Louis Smith, will be joined by professional Natalie Lowe in *Rip It Up* and will be dancing through the 1950s.

Keeping to the dance theme, Tap Factory is a hit show for all ages. It is the fusion of urban tap dance will percussion, comedy and acrobatics.

The cast of award winning dancers make the most of ordinary objects including four pairs of tap shoes, 12 oil barrels, one step ladder, 12 cans, four wood mallets, trash cans, a step ladder, broom, toolbox and broom to create a feast for the eyes.

The show is on September 29.

A different kind of dance will be performed on October 14 and 15 the Russian State Ballet and Opera House will bring Swan Lake and Romeo and Juliet to the theatre.

Performed with a large live orchestra the ballet follows on from their acclaimed performances of Sleeping Beauty and the Nutcracker last year.

Star of *I'm A Celebrity*, Get Me Out Of Here Joel Dommett will be live on October 1 swiftly followed by America's Got talent winner Paul Zerdin and his cast of puppets on October 4.

In a new show, Ed Bryne, fresh from his success on *Mock The Week* and *Dara & Ed's Big Adventure*, will be on stage on November 17.

The voice and face of M People Heather Small returns to celebrate 25 years in music on September 19, G4 will be back for an unforgettable night of class and romantic music on September 28 and *OperaUpClose* will present *The Magic Flute* on October 23.

Singer, songwriter, actress and Grammy and Novello Award nominee Lulu will be on stage on October 25.

Local group Mad Cow Productions will put its spin on Noel Coward's classic farce *Present Laughter* from October 18 to 21.

Countryfile's Adam Henson, historian David Starkey, TV wildlife presenter Gordon Buchanan, choreographer Arlene Phillips, Professor Alice Roberts and Graeme Swann and Henry Blofeld will also be talking about their careers and experiences in the public eye.

For children there is the latest adaptation of David Walliams' *Awful Auntie* by Birmingham Stage Company from October 18 to 2.

There will also be a show by Channel 5's *Milkshake!* on July 16.

To book tickets go to [theatresevern.co.uk](http://theatresevern.co.uk) or call 01743 281281.

Renowned guitarist on the gallery stage

Oswestry's Willow Gallery plays host on Saturday evening to renowned guitarist and composer Maciek Pysz, joined by long-standing friend and fellow-guitarist Gianluca Corona.

The evening, says the gallery, promises to be a wonderful guitar event.

Born in Poland and based in London, Maciek plays in a variety of styles, from jazz and classical to flamenco, tango and folk with, writes one critic, 'breathtaking skills, conjuring the most delicate sounds out of steel and nylon'. To fans he is the writer of inventive and extraordinary songs, inspired by people and places of every kind. He has appeared in festivals and live venues in the UK, Poland, France and Italy, and has a number of critically-acclaimed albums to his credit.

Italian Gianluca Corona is another immensely-gifted and versatile player and composer, admired on both sides of the Atlantic. He has appeared with many great names and is also an eminent teacher of guitar, holding masterclasses all over Europe.



Lulu, Heather Small, Ed Byrne and Joel Dommett will appear



## Garden open days will be taking place

Brownhill House Garden at Ruyton-XI-Towns is staging open days for the National Gardens Scheme on May 30 and June 27 from 1.30pm to 5pm.

Owner Yoland Brown said: "This is the 34th year that Roger and I have been opening our garden at Brownhill House for the National Gardens Scheme.

"This unique garden, which is two acres on a 45 degree slope, has been continually evolving and changing, particularly over the last two years."

Admission is £4, with children free. The garden is also open by arrangement from May to July.

Get ready for the big show once again

Organisers of Shropshire's county show are making last minute preparations for the event which takes place at the end of the month.

The annual show, which has been running for more than 140 years and celebrates all things Shropshire, will take place at the Greenhous West Mid Showground on May 27.

It attracts people from miles around who come to savour all the countryside has to offer.

From prize-winning cows, sheep and pigs to a funfair and horse and dog shows, the event has something to please all tastes.

There is also live music, craft tents and a motorbike display team who last appeared at the show in the

## Spiritual centre will meet up again

Oswestry Spiritual Centre welcomes back Wendy Watkins, local medium from Shrewsbury, to host its demonstration evening tonight (Thursday).

The event takes place from 7.30pm to 9pm, doors open at 7pm.

The cost is £3.50. The event is held in the Cambrian Room, Memorial Hall, Oswestry.

Renowned guitarist on the gallery stage

## The Growlers: We've had a Stroke of luck

American garage rockers The Growlers will bring beach goth tunes to Birmingham's O2 Academy when they headline on Wednesday.

The show follows the release of their album City Club in 2016.

With The Strokes' Julian Casablancas in the driver's seat as producer on City Club, The Growlers have combined their well-established sound with a new touch of New York-esque style.

Lead singer Brooks Nielsen says: "It was really cool working with Julian. It's gone full circle really, The Strokes were one of the first bands that I heard on the radio, that I was singing to that was current, and for him to work with us is really cool. It's really surreal for Matt as he's a huge Strokes fan.

"Matt had it in the back of his head that we were going to be working with Julian, so he started writing songs that almost sounded similar and I was like 'what are you doing'.

## Monster night for American rockers

American rock band Monster Magnet will bring songs from their 30 year career to Birmingham when they headline the city's O2 Academy on Sunday.

The band formed in New Jersey and have enjoyed a colourful career, while continually hovering around the charts but maintaining their cult appeal.

Dave Wyndorf, frontman with the band, enjoys playing in Europe because audiences in the USA are too busy playing with their mobile phones.

"No, they're not paying attention. Unless your brother gets hit by a car, and you get a message, you shouldn't be doing that.

"Nobody gets into their social media the way Americans do. They can't stop. It's like they think that what's out there around the corner is better than what they've got. But when it gets to the point that you're not watching the shows anymore, it's like, what's the point? "I think art will come back, though."

## Ron brings his new sound to Bilston gig

Ron Sexsmith's status as one of the greatest songwriters of his generation has never been in doubt.

From the moment he released his self-titled major-label debut album in 1995. His career arc since then has – in some ways – been a study in how that pure ability has been handled in the studio.

On his 12 albums, Ron has worked with some of music's most celebrated producers – Daniel Lanois, Mitchell Froom, Thad Blake, Ray Kennedy, Martin Terefe, Bob Rock and Jim Scott. With all of that experience, it would stand to reason that Ron has learned a thing or two over the years about how to make a record.

He'll bring his music to Bilston's Robin 2 on Monday for a rare West Midlands performance. And the star will be playing songs from his 13th solo album, The Last Rider, where for the first time he, in tandem with his longtime collaborator Don Kerr, takes matters into his own hands as a producer.



Back at their best – Iron Maiden on tour



*Bruce was singing really well. He's really happy where he's at with his voice*

# We didn't think we had a future – it was serious

They've sold 90 million records. Get that. Ninety. Million.

And in their 42 years together, Iron Maiden have secured enough platinum, gold and silver discs to fill 17 restrooms and 58 studios. They've built and recycled more Eddie mascots than the ski jumper nicknamed 'Eagle' and they play so many gigs that they've bought their own jumbo jet.

After their present run of shows – which includes a headline at Birmingham's Barclaycard Arena on Sunday – they'll be heading back to the States for a US tour.

Bassist and songwriter Steve Harris says: "We are really looking forward to returning to North America for a full tour. We had always planned to go back there and to the UK as last year, due to the global nature of the tour and the period it took, we just didn't have time to cover them properly and we do still like to get to fans in as many places as possible."

"We will, of course, be bringing the full production with us including all the Eddies and the Maya-themed stage sets. There's been a great reaction from everyone to this tour's theme, people really seem to love it. We're

still deciding on the final set-list and we'll work that out once we get into rehearsals.

"Most of our North American fans haven't seen the show yet so as we want to give them the same Book Of Souls live experience that we took around the world, it's unlikely we'll change much. And, of course, we know our fans appreciate us playing a lot of the older songs too, so we will continue to do that!"

The Book of Souls came out in 2015 and marked the start of a newly-creative period for the band. It gave Iron Maiden their fifth number one, having been recorded at Guillaume Tell Studios, in Paris. The record was their first double album and they hit the road in February last year, playing 35 countries in North and South America, Asia, Australasia, Africa and Europe, including their first ever shows in China, El Salvador and Lithuania.

They travelled in their own jumbo jet, nicknamed Ed Force One, before starting the 2017 leg in the UK. The shows marked the band's first since Bruce Dickinson's brush with cancer.

Steve adds that the singer was fine from the start. "Right from the first show, and even in rehearsals, he

was singing really well. He's really happy where he's at with his voice, and so are we. Obviously, there was no guarantee he was going to get back in top form, but he really has. He's singing as good as or better than ever.

"Two years ago we didn't know if we had a future, to be honest. It was very serious. The main thing was whether Bruce was going to be OK – that was first and foremost. Once you get on from there, you think, 'Wow, have we still got a future or not?' It affects everybody, not just us but people who work for us and everything else. It's a big responsibility weighing on you. At the end of the day, we're just really happy to be here. You never know how long you can carry on for."

Steve is thrilled that fans have enjoyed the band's new material. While they're ever-happy to play hits such as The Number of the Beast and Run To The Hills, or Can I Play With Madness and Bring Your Daughter To The Slaughter, they're happy showcasing new tunes. "Whenever we play new material, eventually some of the songs become classics themselves. They can't become that unless you play them. Any new song is not going to go down as well as some of the old stuff."

## Latecomers are put in their place

Lee Nelson  
Serious Joker  
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury  
Sunday (May 14)

It must be a great moment for a comedian – being able to stride on to the stage with a swagger, chest puffed out as the audience cheer and whoop.

But then when the applause and acclaim dies down, the serious bit of getting the gig going is a pretty important moment. If a few gags fall flat you could lose a few people before you've started.

So Lee Nelson got to work – and then a woman walked in late. She had forgotten to give her teenage son the house keys while he was around at a friend's.

A quick haranguing, on with the show. And then in came another late arrival. A few minutes later another. And another.

This could have been hugely frustrating for Nelson – who as he

pointed out, had made it from London on time. But in a show that very much feeds off the audience in among the cheeky one-liners, Nelson made sure he turned it to his advantage.

He was actually a bit too quick off the mark – the second batch of "latecomers" turned out to be theatre staff at the side of the room. Whoops.

But with people still making the walk of shame to their seats a good 20 minutes into the show, he had plenty of

ammunition to work with.

Two lads from Bridgnorth walked in 15 minutes late. "We couldn't park," chirped up one of them under questioning from Nelson. After a gentle bit of probing it turns out this guy was the passenger – and he couldn't find the driver in the theatre.

A young couple were the last to face the Nelson interrogation. "He (partner) told me the show started at 8," said the girl. Awkward. But the best was

perhaps saved for one guy who made it on time in the front row – only to catch Nelson's eye due to the empty seat next to him.

Turned out he hadn't been stood up by his date as Nelson assumed – it was the man's brother who hadn't come because "Lee Nelson isn't funny".

In no time the guy's mobile phone had been handed over and a voicemail message left with a comedy ransom note and an invite to come along for the second half. Alas, he never showed.

It's a new look Nelson these days. Gone is the trademark baseball cap and in place a dapper grey suit and shirt. The "chav" from South London is going up in the world. But some things will never change.

Issues such as Brexit and immigration were tackled, and invariably ended with some quip about Nelson's sex life.

Simon Brodkin, who plays Nelson, made every effort to engage the audience at every turn.

But he is at his best delivering sharp and borderline offensive one-liners – and he always had that to fall back on.

Review by Peter Kitchen



Lee Nelson took no prisoners

# Come what May, Imelda's changed

**S**he barnstormed her way on to the scene with Britain's best rockabilly haircut. Imelda May's third album *Mayhem* was just as memorable as that stunning black-and-blond quiff – a record chockfull of hits such as *Psycho*, *Mayhem*, *Kentish Town Waltz* and *Inside Out*.

It shot to number one in Ireland and the top 10 in the UK, as well as grazing the charts Stateside. *Mayhem* also paved the way for the 2014 follow-up, *Tribal*, which confirmed Imelda's stature as a bona fide star as she went to number three in the UK and entered the American Top 100.

And now she's back. Following the April release of *Life Love Flesh Blood*, Imelda is on the road and headlines Birmingham's Symphony Hall on Monday.

Her new record – it's one with a fringe, rather than a quiff... And, yes, that's the music as well as the hair – showcases Imelda's new groove. She's exploring blues, soul, gospel, folk, rock, sensitive acoustics, cinematic drama and explosive balladry on a set of the boldest, most personal and intimately autobiographical songs she has ever written.

## RELATIONSHIP

The record followed the end of her marriage with her guitarist Darrel Higham, the start of a new relationship and the subsequent end of that too.

"People change," says Imelda. And the record shows it. Her hard-driving rockabilly style is gone. And the end of her 18-year relationship is ever present.

"I wrote the album over the course of a year, so I wrote it about everything. So yes, my marriage breakup is in there, but then I met someone else – and feeling guilty for being happy again, and then having desire and sensuality, all these beautiful things that are certainly a different experience in your 40s than in your 20s, you know? You learn new things about yourself."

In many ways, music has been her salvation. The routine of writing, marketing and touring has kept her on the straight and narrow. It's never been about a salary – being Imelda May is a way of life.

"I love what I do, I love all the different parts of it – it's never mundane. So I love it from writing, through to recording, editing, mixing, mastering, artwork, touring, rehearsals, all of it."

Fresh approach – Imelda's got a new look and sound



"But on stage, it's probably where I feel most at home, performing. That's the reason to make music you want to make – I can't imagine how awful it must be to make an album to try and get a hit, hating it, and having to tour it, talk about it, and pretend you like it. The moral of the story is: always make the music you want to perform, for maybe two or three years – and maybe all your life."

Imelda has made waves among the world's biggest stars, with Bob Dylan calling himself a fan. She was blown away that the folk singer professed his support for her.

"To have my name uttered from his sweet, sweet lips made me die and go to heaven. I think I'm going to have that on my gravestone: Here lies Imelda May, Bob Dylan liked her. He's just brilliant."

She's shed the rockabilly look as she's embraced a different ethos. She felt it was time to move on, time to

experiment and time to start anew. She hit the reboot button on her musical career and hopes people will enjoy her new approach. "I've never made music to please others, and I'm not going to start now. I've been gigging and writing for 26 years, but only known for seven of those, and I started singing blues, jazz, all kinds of roots music. I've never been 100 per cent pure rockabilly and I've always stated that. How I got involved with it in the first place was that I mixed it with blues and jazz and punk and gospel, and was told: drop the rockabilly part. That made me want to do it more, because of the natural rebellious streak in me, and because I couldn't understand why such an influential music was so shunned. Without rockabilly, we would never have had punk, rock'n'roll, progressive rock, and most things we love today."

# Vamps want to be Somebody to You

It's only been five years since boy band superstars The Vamps formed.

Yet since 2012 they've swept the board at the BBC Radio One Teen Awards, had a gold-selling album with their 2014 debut, *Meet The Vamps*, supported McFly, Selena Gomez, Taylor Swift and The Wanted and now they're headlining their own UK Arena tour.

They'll bring their *Wake Up!* tour to Birmingham's Genting Arena tomorrow night (Friday) and fans can look forward to Bradley, James, Connor and Tristan playing their biggest hits – as well as songs from their forthcoming record, *Night And Day*.

There's every chance the new record will head in a dance-ier direction than *Meet The Vamps* or *Wake Up*.

James says: "We're not trying to make a dance album, but it's a bit more dance-y than anything we've done



before; it's quite atmospheric.

"We've tried to blend in a dance drop with a singer-songwriter verses, so it's much more like a blend of genre. It's about the nostalgia of spending time with a girl and you're up and you can't sleep and you wish that you were with her."

Brad adds: "In the verses especially it goes more in depth in terms of speaking about someone who had essentially pulled you back from a bit of a rubbish place. You get all of that depth in the verse which is nice. Then the chorus is this big sing-along; it almost sounds like

these kids singing."

The band get a real high from releasing new music and hope that fans will dig the new record.

Brad said: "I think the most exciting thing is people don't see us for like 6 months, we'll disappear and people will be like 'oh what are The Vamps doing?' But for us, we never really stop. We haven't stopped in about four years because we write an album then we'll release it then we'll tour and whilst we're touring we'll be writing a new one."

"Having spent all this time and put all this hard work, heart, soul and effort into these songs and then being given the opportunity to release them is really cool because it captures a period of time."

"We'll look back on the first album and second album and it's really nostalgic and you can hear it in the songs too, because you know, all we listen to is ourselves (laughs)."

## Tom's Keane to play hits from solo album

Keane singer Tom Chaplin has enjoyed a stunning start to his debut career, after his first album, *The Wave*, entered the UK chart at number three.

And he's now embarking on a major UK tour, so that he can showcase songs from that powerful record. He'll play Birmingham's Symphony Hall on Tuesday.

*The Wave* was written by Chaplin and produced by Matt Hales (Aqualung, Lianne La Havas).

Tom has enjoyed appearances on *Later* with Jools Holland and fans can look forward to a special

date, not to be missed.

He says it was exciting to go solo: "Initially, I was excited and felt like it was something I wanted to do for awhile. I wanted to step away from the Keane stuff for a while and do my own stuff."

"I stepped away and threw myself into it which was really exciting. Creatively and in my personal life, I ran into brick walls pretty fast after that. It's been a bumpy road but once I got myself well, I kind of got back on track and have really, really enjoyed it."

"People who knew the band well would always ask me, 'are we going to hear your own songs?' and that made me feel a little bit of pressure and expectation."

"For me personally, it is about one to have an outlet. Obviously I've got lots to talk and write about."

## All that matters is that Alex is here

He's one of R'n'B's most successful names.

Alexander O'Neal has enjoyed success and interest in the singer has peaked in recent years, following an appearance on *Celebrity Big Brother*.

Alexander's returning to Birmingham to headline the city's New Alexandra Theatre tomorrow night (Friday) and fans can join him together with his nine-piece band. They will be celebrating the 30th anniversary of his 1987 masterpiece *Hearsay*.

Spending more than two years in the UK album charts and selling over 700,000 copies *Hearsay* was certified triple platinum by the BPI. The album launched singles, *Fake*, *Criticize* and *Never Knew Love Like This*.



## It's the right time for Leftfield to go on tour

When electronica stars Leftfield put tickets on sale for their new tour – the shows sold out almost immediately.

Fans are looking forward to the band celebrating their landmark album, *Leftism*, which blended dub, breakbeat and house.

They were shortlisted for the 1995 Mercury Music Prize and in a 1998 Q magazine poll, readers voted it the 18th greatest album of all time, while in 2000 Q placed it at number 34 in its list of the 100 Greatest British Albums Ever. The album was re-released in 2000 with a bonus disc of remixes.

The tour will reach Birmingham's O2 Institute tomorrow night (Friday) and fans can look forward to hearing the record in its entirety.

Leftfield first stepped into the strobe light in 1990 with *Not Forgotten*, setting British house on a different course. Now, Leftfield is releasing *Leftism 22*, a remastered issue of their influential debut album, *Leftism*.

# May 20


**Casualty**
*9pm*

Now that Grace is living with Sam, Connie and Hugo have become a contented family unit of their own. However, when Hugo's father Jim gets in touch, and tells Connie he is planning to take Hugo back, the troubled youngster runs away. Amanda Mealing and Billy Angel star.


**Dad's Army**
*8.30pm*

Captain Mainwaring organises a dance in an attempt to boost platoon morale – but Pike interrupts proceedings to make an important announcement regarding his girlfriend Violet. Classic comedy by Jimmy Perry and David Croft, starring Ian Lavender. First broadcast in 1969.


**Take Me Out**
*6.45pm*

Paddy McGuinness lines up another panel of single ladies, giving them a chance to appraise the worthiness of a selection of bachelors seeking romance. Among the men entering the 'love lift' this week are fitness instructor Dathan from London and pianist Scott from Huddersfield.


**The Restoration Man**
*7pm*

George Clarke meets a man in Northumberland who bought a Victorian railway station, with the intention of converting it into a family home. He has managed to keep his budget down by doing all the building work single-handed at weekends, but the project has been threatened by planning restrictions.


**NCIS**
*8pm*

A 14-year-old boy manages to foil a home invasion, but when Gibbs is called in to investigate, he suspects the teenager may be withholding crucial information. As the case makes progress, Gibbs turns his attention to helping the boy's mother, the wife of a naval officer.

**BBC1**

**6.00** Breakfast.

**10.00** **Saturday Kitchen Live.** The One Show's Michelle Ackerman joins guest host Donal Skehan to sample dishes prepared in the studio kitchen by Tom Ameddi and Christian Edwardson.

**11.30** **Mary Berry's Absolute Favourites.** The veteran cook makes dishes inspired by her family. Last in the series. (R)

**12.00** **Football Focus.** Dan Walker and guests look ahead to the weekend's fixtures, including the conclusion of the Premier League season and the League One play-off final at Wembley Stadium. BBC News; Weather.

**1.00** **Bargain Hunt.** Two pairs of teams head to an antiques fair in Peterborough. (R)

**2.15** **Escape to the Country.** A couple looking for a property in rural Cheshire. (R)

**3.15** **FILM: Wreck-It Ralph (2012).** A video game villain ventures into other arcade worlds looking for the chance to be a hero. Animated adventure, with the voices of John C Reilly and Sarah Silverman.

**4.45** **FILM: Monsters University (2013).** Student creatures Mike and Sulley must work together to complete their course in scaring kids. Animated comedy prequel, with the voice of John Goodman and Billy Crystal.

**6.20** BBC News.

**6.30** **Midlands Today; Weather.**

**6.35** **Pointless Celebrities.** Tim Rice, Don Black, Connie Fisher, Siobhan Dillon, Claire Sweeney, Nigel Planer, Cory English and Phil Jupitus take part in a musical theatre-themed edition of the quiz show.

**7.25** **Doctor Who.** The Doctor receives an unexpected appeal for help from the Vatican when the translation of an ancient tome said to cause anyone who reads it to die leaks onto the internet.

**8.15** **Who Dares Wins.** Nick Knowles challenges two pairs of complete strangers to team up, and battle it out to list as much as they know about a given subject.

**9.00** **Casualty.** Hugo runs away when he finds out his father Jim is planning to take him back, and Lily returns to work, but fails to notice tell-tale track-marks on her first patient's arm.

**9.50** **BBC News; Weather; National Lottery Update.**

**10.10** **Clique.** New series. Two best friends are drawn into an elite clique of alpha girls led by lecturer Jude McDermid in their first few weeks at university. Drama, starring Synnove Karlsson.

**10.55** **Clique.** As Georgia is drawn into the heart of the clique, Holly grows increasingly suspicious, and plans to use Rory's interest in her to gain further access to Alistair McDermid's world.

**11.40** **FILM: Insomnia (2002).** A sleep-deprived detective accidentally kills his partner, and the murderer they were hunting sees him do it. Christopher Nolan's thriller, with Al Pacino and Robin Williams.

**1.35** **Weather for the Week Ahead.**

**1.40** BBC News.

**BBC2**

**6.20** **FILM: The Charge of the Light Brigade (1936).** Fact-based Crimean War drama, starring Errol Flynn.

**8.10** **FILM: Kismet (1955).** Musical fantasy, starring Howard Keel.

**10.00** **Homes Under the Hammer.** Properties in Castle Donington, Silverdale and Tredegar. (R)

**11.00** **Monty Halls' Great Hebridean Escape. (R)**

**12.00** **Great British Menu.** The first of the North West region heats. (R)

**12.30** **Great British Menu.** Paul Askew, Ellis Barrie and Tom Parker produce fish-based dishes. (R)

**1.00** **Hitchcock's Leading Actors: Talking Pictures.** Exploring the relationship between director Alfred Hitchcock and his stars. (R)

**1.30** **FILM: North By Northwest (1959).** Hitchcock thriller, starring Cary Grant.

**3.45** **Flog It!** Making a profit at auction. (R)

**4.10** **Trust Me, I'm a Vet.** The team investigate the warning signs dogs give out before becoming aggressive. Last in the series. (R)

**5.10** **Gardeners' World.** Monty Don plants out his dahlias. (R)

**6.10** **Natural World.** Exploring efforts to protect wildlife including turtles, dolphins and monk seals in Hawaii's surf zone, as its marine animals face a growing threat from washed-up plastic. (R)

**7.00** **Mexico: Earth's Festival of Life.** Exploring the forests of the Yucatan Peninsula, which contain the ruins of the Mayan civilisation and a wide range of wildlife, including jaguars, monkeys and tropical birds. (R)

**8.00** **Yorkshire Wolds Way with Paul Rose.** Part two of. Two. Adventurer Paul Rose concludes his exploration of the 79-mile Yorkshire Wolds Way, taking to the skies to get a unique view of its stretch of chalk downland.

**8.30** **Dad's Army.** Captain Mainwaring organises a dance in an attempt to boost platoon morale, but Pike interrupts proceedings to make an important announcement regarding his girlfriend Violet. (R)

**9.00** **FILM: Philomena (2013).** A disillusioned political journalist helps a woman find the child that was forcibly taken from her in the 1950s. Fact-based drama, with Judi Dench and Steve Coogan.

**10.35** **QI XL.** An extended edition, in which question-master Stephen Fry probes the subject of Messing with Your Mind, with Sarah Millican, Tommy Tiernan, Josh Widdicombe and Alan Davies.

**11.20** **Versailles.** King Louis XIV's continued insomnia makes him increasingly volatile, Claudine continues to investigate the mystery toxin, while Sophie seeks a solution to her marital woes; (R) **Inside Versailles.** Kate Williams and Greg Jenner discuss Louis XIV's premier valet Alexandre Bontemps. (R)

**12.20** **FILM: Cabaret (1972).** Oscar-winning musical, starring Liza Minnelli.

**2.20** **This Is BBC2.**

**ITV**

**6.00** **CITV: Bottom Knocker Street 6.10** Bottom Knocker Street 6.25 Sooty 6.35 Signed Stories: Share a Story 6.40 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures 6.50 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures 7.00 Oddbods 7.05 Marvel Avengers Assemble 7.30 Thunderbirds Are Go 7.55 NinjaGo: Masters of Spinjitzu

**8.25** **ITV News.**

**8.30** **Weekend.** With guests Milton Jones, Amanda Lamb, Charlotte Bellamy and Sound of the Sirens.

**9.25** **The Home Game.** Retirees from Padstow blow their budget on an oak porch. (R)

**10.20** **Judge Rinder.** Real-life cases in a studio courtroom. (R)

**11.15** **Tipping Point.** Game show, hosted by Ben Shephard. (R)

**12.20** **ITV News and Weather;** Weather.

**12.25** **Bigheads.** Jason Manford hosts the comedy game show. (R)

**1.30** **ITV Racing: Live from Newbury.** Ed Chamberlin and Francesca Cumani present coverage of four races from Newbury at 1.50, 2.20, 2.55 and 3.30, as well as three races from Newmarket at 2.05, 2.40 and 3.15.

**4.00** **Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs.** A 10-month-old mongrel with poor eyesight that needs its very own guide dog. (R)

**4.30** **Catchphrase.** Guessing game, hosted by Stephen Mulhern. (R)

**5.15** **Britain's Got More Talent.** Stephen Mulhern hosts the companion show to the talent competition.

**6.15** **ITV News Central;** Weather.

**6.25** **6.45**

**6.45** **Take Me Out.** A fitness instructor, a pianist, a research executive and a construction worker submit themselves for approval in front of Paddy McGuinness's panel of 30 single ladies.

**8.00** **Britain's Got Talent.** The audition stage of the talent contest draws to a close, as Simon Cowell, David Walliams, Amanda Holden and Alesha Dixon appraise another batch of would-be stars.

**9.20** **The Keith and Paddy Picture Show.** Michelle Keegan, Ant and Dec, Phillip Schofield and David Dickinson help Keith Lemon and Paddy McGuinness remake the last film of the original Star Wars trilogy, Return of the Jedi.

**9.50** **FILM: Total Recall (1990).** A construction worker discovers his memory has been erased and travels to Mars to uncover his true identity. Sci-fi thriller, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger and Rachel Ticotin.

**10.50** **ITV News and Weather;** Weather.

**11.05** **FILM: Total Recall (1990).** Concluded.

**12.20** **Jackpot247.** Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.

**3.00** **Who's Doing the Dishes?** Former Liberty X star Michelle Heaton hosts a dinner party for four guests who must use the clues to ascertain her identity and avoid having to wash up. Hosted by Brian McFadden. (R)

**3.50** **ITV Nightscreen.**

**Channel 4**

**6.15** **Motor Sport: Mini Challenge.** Round two from Rockingham.

**6.45** **Mobil 1 The Grid.**

**7.10** **Everybody Loves Raymond. (R)**

**7.35** **Everybody Loves Raymond.** Robert quits the police. (R)

**8.05** **Everybody Loves Raymond. (R)**

**8.30** **Frasier.** Part one of two. Niles throws a Halloween party. (R)

**9.00** **Frasier.** Part two of two. Roz's pregnancy puts her in a panic. (R)

**9.30** **Frasier.** The shrink's celebrations for his 1,000th show go awry. (R)

**10.00** **The Big Bang Theory. (R)**

**10.30** **The Big Bang Theory. (R)**

**10.55** **The Big Bang Theory. (R)**

**11.25** **The Simpsons. (R)**

**11.55** **The Simpsons.** Lisa and Bart help Krusty find his father. (R)

**12.30** **The Simpsons.** Bart, Homer and Lisa suffer from nightmares. (R)

**1.00** **Come Dine with Me.** Andrew Carruthers hosts the first dinner party from Cumbria. (R)

**1.30** **Come Dine with Me.** Fitness fanatic Jonny Thompson hosts the second night in Cumbria. (R)

**2.00** **Come Dine with Me.** Sheepdog trainer Katy Cropper hosts the third dinner party in Cumbria. (R)

**2.30** **Come Dine with Me.** Holly Vennin hosts the fourth night in Cumbria. (R)

**3.00** **Come Dine with Me.** Wendy Tinnion hosts the final night in Cumbria. (R)

**3.35** **A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun.** A single mother of four looks for a property in the Cinque Terre region of Italy. (R)

**4.35** **Big House, Little House.** Aidan Keane casts his eye over two very different bathroom renovation projects.

**5.40** **Location, Location, Location.** Kirstie and Phil help people looking for homes in London. (R)

**6.35** **7.00**

**7.00** **The Restoration Man.** George Clarke meets a man in Northumberland who plans to convert a Victorian railway station into a family home – a project that has been threatened by planning restrictions. (R)

**8.00** **Walks with My Dog.** Bill Bailey returns to his West Country roots for a walk on Exmoor. Kirsty Wark enjoys the tranquility of the Isle of Arran and Julian Clary is on the South Downs. Previously shown on More4.

**9.00** **FILM: The Heat (2013).** An ambitious FBI agent and an unconventional cop are forced to work together to bring a drug kingpin to justice. Action comedy, with Sandra Bullock and Melissa McCarthy.

**11.25** **FILM: Bullet to the Head (2012).** A hitman and a police detective join forces to seek revenge on the man who murdered both their partners. Action thriller, with Sylvester Stallone, Sung Kang and Christian Slater.

**1.05** **Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R)**

**1.50** **Hollyoaks. (R)**

**3.55** **Location, Location, Location. (R)**

**4.50** **Shipping Wars UK. (R)**

**5.15** **Fifteen to One. (R)**

**Channel 5**

**6.00** **Milkshake! Milkshake! Monkey 6.05** The Mr Men Show 6.15 Peppa Pig 6.20 Peppa Pig 6.25 Wissper 6.35 Paw Patrol 6.45 Bob the Builder 7.00 Fireman Sam 7.10 Olly the Little White Van 7.15 Olly the Little White Van 7.25 Paw Patrol 7.40 Blaze and the Monster Machines 8.05 Noddy: Toyland Detective 8.20 Wissper 8.30 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom 8.50 Shimmy and Shine 9.10 Little Princess 9.25 Peppa Pig 9.40 Peppa Pig

**9.50** **Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom.** The friends go on a snail trek with Miss Jolly. (R)

**10.00** **The Fairly OddParents.** Double bill. Poof turns Timmy and Vicky into the stars of a violent cat-and-mouse cartoon. (R)

**10.35** **The Gadget Show.** Ortis Deley samples a 3D printer that can cook. (R)

**11.30** **Police Interceptors.** The unit assists with an emergency landing. (R)

**12.30** **Police Interceptors.** Kev Salter and Ian Squire hunt for a man roaming the streets with a machete. (R)

**1.30** **Police Interceptors.** Damien Stevens draws his stun gun on an aggressive driver. (R)

**2.30** **FIA Formula E Live: 2017 Paris ePrix.** The Paris ePrix.

**4.15** **The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door.** A Norwich man who hatched a plan to oust his noisy neighbour. (R)

**5.15** **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** An agent is physically assaulted by a debtor's wife. (R)

**6.10** **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** The officers try to recover £13,000 owed by a high-performance car dealer in Birmingham, and in Wolverhampton the agents chase nearly £2,000 owed to a car hire company. (R)

**7.10** **NCIS: Los Angeles.** Kensi and Deeks go undercover as a married couple in a quiet suburb as part of an investigation into a Russian sleeper cell.

**8.00** **NCIS.** Gibbs is suspicious when a teenager foils a home invasion, while Vance and Fornell travel to London as part of the ongoing British spy case. Guest starring Michelle Obama.

**8.55** **5 News Weekend.**

**9.00** **Most Shocking Celebrity Moments of the 80s.** The most infamous TV moments of the 1980s, including the disastrous Brit awards hosted by Samantha Fox and Mick Fleetwood and Simon Le Bon's nautical misadventures. (R)

**11.50** **Football on 5: The Playoffs.** Bradford City v Millwall. George Riley and George Hippgrave present action from the League One play-off final at Wembley Stadium.

**12.15** **SuperCasino.** Live interactive gaming. **3.05** **FILM: The New Daughter (2009).** Horror, starring Kevin Costner.

**4.50** **House Doctor.** A country cottage in Northamptonshire. (R)

**5.15** **Wildlife SOS.** The work of an animal sanctuary. (R)

**5.40** **Angels of Jarm. (R)**

**5.50** **Roary the Racing Car. (R)**

# May 21



## Antiques Roadshow

7.30pm

Fiona Bruce presents a second show from Ightham Mote near Sevenoaks, where finds include a gold ring containing a lock of Lord Byron's hair, a collection of postcards from 1916 that reveal how a British PoW sent messages to his family, and a pair of Chinese paintings that make a big impression.



## Dara and Ed's Road to Mandalay

9pm

Dara O Briain and Ed Byrne arrive in Myanmar at a time of great political change. After 50 years of military rule, the first elections were held, heralding a new era of democracy. Along the way, the duo take part in a Buddhist Festival of Light.



## The Durrells

8pm

Hugh organises a cricket match between Greek and English teams to bring everyone together. Countess Mavrodaki offers to umpire – but warns Margo that contests between the two nations are never friendly. Spiro advises Louisa that she has terrible taste in men.



## Cabins in the Wild with Dick Strawbridge

8pm

New series. Eight teams transform cabins across Wales into luxury tourist accommodation inspired by local mythology, traditions and landscapes, which together will form a pop-up hotel that can be moved around the country.



## Greatest 80s Movies

9pm

Ronni Ancona narrates a countdown of viewers' favourite films from the decade, including ET, Top Gun, Ghostbusters, Beverly Hills Cop and Ferris Bueller's Day Off. Christopher Lloyd chats about playing Doc Brown in the Back to the Future franchise.

## BBC1

6.00 Breakfast.  
 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show.  
 10.00 The Big Questions. Nicky Campbell presents moral and religious discussions from Oasis Academy MediaCityUK, Salford.  
 11.00 Sunday Politics West Midlands. The week's events at Westminster, presented by Andrew Neil. Including a regional round-up.  
 12.15 Bargain Hunt. From the Westpoint antiques and collectors fair in Devon. (R)  
 1.00 BBC News; Weather.  
 1.15 Money for Nothing. Transforming a cuckoo clock, a pair of bamboo chairs and an old kitchen unit. (R)  
 2.00 Escape to the Country. Two campervan enthusiasts with a budget of £400,000 seek a home near the Peak District, and Nicki Chapman tries her hand at woodcraft with Britain's last traditional bowl turner. (R)  
 3.00 Shop Well for Less? Alex Jones and Steph McGovern help a family that is addicted to brand labels, and try to convince them that cheaper alternatives can be just as good. (R)  
 4.00 Lifeline. Gabby Logan presents.  
 4.10 Points of View. Jeremy Vine presents a selection of viewers' comments.  
 4.25 Songs of Praise. Josie Araby visits a convent in Pembrokeshire.  
 5.00 RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2017. New series. A look ahead to this year's horticultural event.  
 6.00 BBC News.  
 6.20 Midlands Today; Weather.  
 6.30 Countryfile. Matt Baker explores the rise and fall of the orchards in the Clyde Valley. Ellie Harrison explores some of Scotland's oldest forests, and Sean Fletcher visits a traditional mill.  
 7.30 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce presents a second show from Ightham Mote near Sevenoaks, where finds include a collection of postcards that reveal how a British PoW sent messages to his family.  
 8.30 Inspector George Gently. The detective puts his career on the line when he reopens the case of a woman convicted of killing her husband, hoping to uncover a long-buried miscarriage of justice.  
 10.00 BBC News.  
 10.20 Midlands Today; Weather.  
 10.30 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the final day of the Premier League season, with matches including Hull City v Tottenham Hotspur and Swansea City v West Bromwich Albion.  
 12.15 Murder in Successville. Professor Green helps DI Sleet with a particularly unusual case as Successville's resident superhero the Rattman battles his arch-enemy the Termite – whose identity is a mystery.  
 12.45 The Women's Football Show. A look at the biggest issues in the women's game, focusing on matters at both club and international level.  
 1.20 Weather for the Week Ahead.  
 1.25 BBC News.

## BBC2

6.05 A to Z of TV Gardening. Carol Kirkwood looks at subjects beginning with the letter M. (R)  
 6.50 The Instant Gardener. A low-allergen garden in Northamptonshire. (R)  
 7.35 Gardeners' World. Monty Don plants out his dahlias. (R)  
 8.35 The Beechgrove Garden. Carole Baxter has advice on caring for houseplants.  
 9.05 Countryfile. Matt Baker reports on a plan to preserve the Suffolk Broads. (R)  
 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. Matt Tebbutt presents highlights of the series.  
 11.30 Great British Menu. (R)  
 12.00 Great British Menu. The North West chefs prepare desserts. (R)  
 12.30 Great British Menu. The two remaining North West chefs compete. (R)  
 1.00 NW200 Highlights. Action from the International North West 200 motorcycle race.  
 2.00 FILM: None But the Brave (1965). Second World War adventure, starring Frank Sinatra.  
 3.45 Galapagos – Islands of Change: Natural World. The impact of increased migration and tourism on the archipelago's wildlife. (R)  
 4.30 Final Score. Updates and results from the final day of the Premier League season.  
 5.30 Flog It! From Stockport in Greater Manchester. (R)  
 6.00 Inside the Factory: How Our Favourite Foods Are Made. Gregg Wallace and Cherry Healey find out about the production of chocolate and Ruth Goodman learns what it was like working in factories before machines took over. (R)  
 7.00 Dragons' Den. Evan Davis presents the business ideas contest, with the panel considering the potential of plans for miniature pencils, giant beanbags and boot-cleaning machines. (R)  
 8.00 Mexico: Earth's Festival of Life. The deserts of Mexico's northern region, home to animals like prairie dogs, pygmy owls and aplomado falcons that have adapted to thrive in these arid conditions. Last in the series.  
 9.00 Dara and Ed's Road to Mandalay. Dara O Briain and Ed Byrne arrive in Myanmar, where they take part in a Buddhist festival and have their fortunes read before finally reaching Mandalay. Last in the series.  
 10.00 FILM: The Homesman (2014). Premiere. A frontier woman persuades an outlaw to help her lead three traumatised women across the wilderness. Western, directed by and starring Tommy Lee Jones, with Hilary Swank.  
 11.55 FILM: Love Is All You Need (2012). A Danish woman recovering from treatment for cancer falls in love with the widowed father of her daughter's fiance. Romantic drama, with Pierce Brosnan and Trine Dyrholm.  
 1.45 Sign Zone: Question Time. (R)  
 2.45 Sign Zone: Holby City. (R)  
 3.45 This Is BBC2.

## ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street 6.10 Bottom Knocker Street 6.25 Sooty 6.35 Signed Stories: Share a Story 6.40 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures 6.50 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures 7.00 Oddbods 7.05 Marvel Avengers Assemble 7.30 Thunderbirds Are Go 7.55 Ben 10 8.10 Ben 10  
 8.25 ITV News.  
 8.30 Weekend. With Kacey Ainsworth and Engelbert Humperdinck.  
 9.25 Countrywise. Liz Bonnin takes part in the National Trust's biggest coastal wildlife survey. Last in the series. (R)  
 10.00 Peston on Sunday. Political magazine.  
 11.00 Judge Rinder. Real-life cases in a studio courtroom. (R)  
 12.00 ITV News and Weather; Weather.  
 12.05 Tipping Point. Game show, hosted by Ben Shephard. (R)  
 1.05 Who's Doing the Dishes? Four diners try to guess the identity of mystery celebrity host Diana Moran. (R)  
 2.05 The Chase. Quiz show, hosted by Bradley Walsh. (R)  
 3.05 Britain's Got Talent. The audition stage of the talent contest draws to a close. (R)  
 4.20 FILM: The Man with the Golden Gun (1974). James Bond adventure, starring Roger Moore and Christopher Lee.  
 6.40 ITV News Central; Weather.  
 6.45 ITV News and Weather.  
 7.00 Bigheads. Jason Manford hosts the game show in which contestants undertake physical challenges while wearing giant model heads of Donald Trump, Theresa May, and David and Victoria Beckham.  
 8.00 The Durrells. Hugh organises a cricket match between Greek and English teams. Countess Mavrodaki offers to umpire – but warns Margo that contests between the two nations are never friendly.  
 9.00 Granthchester. Sidney joins a travellers' community as he struggles to put his past life in Granthchester behind him, but finds himself accused of murder and in need of Geordie's help.  
 10.00 ITV News and Weather; Weather.  
 10.20 Peston on Sunday. Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston. Allegra Stratton presents a guide to the latest issues on social media. (R)  
 11.20 Premiership Rugby Union. Mark Durden-Smith and David Flatman present highlights of the semi-finals, which were Exeter Chiefs v Saracens and Wasps v Leicester Tigers.  
 12.15 Lethal Weapon. Riggs and Murtaugh become embroiled in a notorious car theft ring. (R)  
 1.00 Jackpot247. Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.  
 3.00 Motorsport UK. Highlights from Donington Park.  
 3.50 ITV Nightscreen. Text-based information service.  
 5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show. The host invites guests to air their differences over family and relationship issues. (R)

## Channel 4

6.10 Motor Sport: Caterham. Action from Spa-Francorchamps, Belgium.  
 6.40 European Taekwondo Championships. Action from Liverpool.  
 7.35 Everybody Loves Raymond. Part one of two. Marie surprises the family. (R)  
 8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. Part two of two. Robert falls in love. (R)  
 8.30 Frasier. The shrink is invited to be a guest speaker on a cruise. (R)  
 9.00 Frasier. A lawyer begins dating Frasier. (R)  
 9.30 Sunday Brunch. With Shane Lynch, James Cosmo and Tim Burgess.  
 12.30 Eat the Week. Simon Rimmer comes up with healthy recipes for two sporty children.  
 1.30 The Simpsons. A tramp entertains the family. (R)  
 2.00 FILM: Dr Dolittle 2 (2001). Comedy sequel, starring Eddie Murphy.  
 3.50 FILM: Robin Hood (1973). Disney animation, with the voices of Terry Thomas and Peter Ustinov.  
 5.30 George Clarke's Old House, New Home. The host helps a Leicester couple restore their period house. (R)  
 6.30 Channel 4 News.  
 7.00 Flat Pack Mansions. Documentary following people who are building huge luxury houses out of prefabricated materials on a tight schedule, with the homes designed to be environmentally efficient.  
 8.00 Cabins in the Wild with Dick Strawbridge. New series. Eight teams transform cabins across Wales into luxury tourist accommodation, which together will form a pop-up hotel that can be moved around the country.  
 9.00 The Trial: A Murder in the Family. New series. Drama-documentary in which a fictional murder case is tried in a real court, with Michael Gould playing the defendant in front of a real judge, jury and QCs. Continues tomorrow.  
 10.05 Gogglebox. Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. (R)  
 11.00 FILM: Bad Teacher (2011). A cynical, hard-drinking teacher hopes to seduce a wealthy substitute, making an enemy of a squeaky-clean colleague in the process. Comedy, with Cameron Diaz and Justin Timberlake.  
 12.50 Millionaires' Mansions: Designing Britain's Most Exclusive Homes. Transforming homes in the exclusive borough of Chelsea. (R)  
 1.45 The Last Leg. Armando Iannucci joins the regulars for a comic review of the past seven days. (R)  
 2.40 Location, Location, Location. House-hunting in Liverpool. (R)  
 3.35 Selling Houses with Amanda Lamb. In South Yorkshire, Amanda helps three sellers give their homes a makeover.  
 4.30 Jamie's Comfort Food Bites. (R)  
 4.40 KOTV Boxing Weekly. Action from around the world.  
 5.05 Gillette World Sport. With Chris Hogan and Marcus Cooper Walz.  
 5.35 Mobil 1 The Grid. (R)

## Channel 5

6.00 Milkshake! Milkshake! Monkey 6.05 Mr Men 6.15 Peppa Pig 6.20 Peppa Pig 6.25 Whisper 6.35 Paw Patrol 6.45 Bob the Builder 7.00 Fireman Sam 7.10 Olly the Little White Van 7.15 Olly the Little White Van 7.20 Paw Patrol 7.35 Blaze and the Monster Machines 8.00 Noddy: Toyland Detective 8.15 Whisper 8.30 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom 8.45 Shimmy and Shine 9.05 Little Princess 9.25 Peppa Pig 9.30 Peppa Pig 9.40 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom 9.55 The Fairly OddParents. Double bill. Mr Crocker decides he needs an heir. (R)  
 10.30 Dogs Make You Laugh Out Loud. The internet's most popular videos featuring dogs. (R)  
 10.55 Police Interceptors. Damo Stevens pursues a heroin dealer. (R)  
 11.55 Police Interceptors. Dog handler Andy Hunt is called to a violent domestic disturbance. (R)  
 12.55 FILM: Fletch Lives (1989). Comedy sequel, starring Chevy Chase.  
 2.45 FILM: Willow (1988). Fantasy adventure, starring Warwick Davis.  
 5.10 FILM: Labyrinth (1986). Fantasy adventure, starring Jennifer Connelly and David Bowie.  
 7.05 FILM: Walking on Sunshine (2014). Premiere. A woman attends her sister's wedding in Italy, only to discover the groom is her lost love. Musical comedy featuring 1980s pop songs, with Hannah Arterton and Greg Wise.  
 8.55 5 News Weekend.  
 9.00 Greatest 80s Movies. Ronni Ancona narrates a countdown of viewers' favourite films from the decade, including ET, Top Gun, The Goonies, Ghostbusters, Beverly Hills Cop and Ferris Bueller's Day Off. (R)  
 11.55 FILM: Highlander (1986). Immortal warriors must fight each other in duels to the death through the centuries, until only one survives. Fantasy action adventure, with Christopher Lambert and Sean Connery.  
 2.00 SuperCasino. Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.  
 3.10 Top 20 Funniest. Another selection of the funniest video clips in America, including a young girl who uses a motorcycle to pull out her brother's loose tooth. (R)  
 4.00 Criminals: Caught on Camera. Journalist Nick Wallis joins police forces to reveal how CCTV is being used to fight crime, taking a look at how some residents are taking neighbourhood watch to the next level. (R)  
 4.50 House Doctor. Ann Maurice tackles a three-bedroom Victorian house in Norwich which, thanks to an array of personal belongings and overpowering paintwork, has been on the market for three months. (R)  
 5.15 Wildlife SOS. The work of a wildlife sanctuary. (R)  
 5.40 Angels of Jarm. Otto climbs a tree. (R)  
 5.50 Roary the Racing Car. Breeze visits the track. (R)

# Local Specialists

## FOCUS ON...

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## FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### deaths

#### BRAUN

Norbert Martin

Passed away suddenly on April 19, 2017, aged 89 years.

Of Cefn Coch.

Beloved Husband of the late Mary.

Funeral Service at Emstrey Crematorium, Shrewsbury on Friday, May 19, at 1.15pm.

Family flowers only. Donations if so desired to Careenion Medical Centre.

Inquiries please

R G PEATE

Funeral Director

Salop Road

Welshpool

SY21 7EG

01938 810657.

#### HUGHES

Linda

Of School Lane, Trefonen.

Passed away suddenly on May 2, 2017, aged 61 years.

Beloved Wife of Hywel.

Much loved Mum of Chris and Rachel.

Loving Nan of Ollie, Zoe, Erin, Jess and Finley.

A private Interment will be held followed by a Memorial Service at All Saints Church, Trefonen, on Tuesday, May 23, at 1pm.

Family flowers only but donations if desired for The Midlands Air Ambulance and The British Heart Foundation.

All inquiries please to

W. E. PRICE

Funeral Directors

Oakwood,

Salop Road,

Oswestry,

Shropshire,

SY11 2RN.

Telephone 01691 652995.

#### LLOYD

Geoffrey Mark

(Geoff)

B.Vet Med DBR MRCVS

Passed away suddenly at his home in Leighton on May 4, 2017, aged 58 years.

Much loved Husband of Jenny.

He will be so dearly missed by all his Family, Colleagues, Friends and Clients.

A celebration of his life will be held at Emstrey Crematorium, Shrewsbury on Tuesday, May 23, at 11.30am.

Family flowers only. Donations if so desired to The RNLI.

Please no black, wear bright colours.

Inquiries please

R G PEATE

Funeral Director

Salop Road

Welshpool

SY21 7EG

01938 810657.

### McDADE

Mary

Of Whittington and formerly of Ardmillan Close, Oswestry.

Passed away on May 6, 2017, aged 95 years.

Partner of Harry Dennison, Mother of the late Michael and Patrick and a loving Grandma.

Funeral Service at St Oswald's Parish Church, Oswestry, on Tuesday, May 23, at 11am, followed by Interment at Oswestry Cemetery.

Family flowers only, donations if desired to Cancer Research UK.

All inquiries to

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1 Upper Church Street

Oswestry

Telephone 01691 653116.

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### 2 Full Time Teaching Assistants (TT) 1 Part Time/Job Share Teaching Assistant (TT)

Closing date for applications: 12 noon on 24th May 2017  
 Full details and an application form for the above roles are available from: The School Secretary, Adcote School, Little Ness, Shrewsbury SY4 2JY

Tel: 01939 260202

Email: [schoolsecretary@adcoteschool.co.uk](mailto:schoolsecretary@adcoteschool.co.uk)  
[www.adcoteschool.co.uk](http://www.adcoteschool.co.uk)

Interviews will take place on the 26th May 2017, if you have not received an invitation to interview by the 25th May 2017 you can assume your application has been unsuccessful.

The School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and Disclosure and Barring Service.

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The successful applicant will have experience, or be aware, of what is required in a catering, hospitality or hotel environment.

Evening Deputy Catering Supervisor -

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The successful applicant will manage the evening "Waiting-on" team.

Also Casual staff required for:

"Waiting-on" - Daytime hours available

Bar - Evening hours available

Application should be by application form, which is available from [www.wales.ac.uk/vacancies](http://www.wales.ac.uk/vacancies).

All applications should be addressed to Helen Edwards, Administration Manager University of Wales, Gregynog, Tregynon, Near Newtown, Powys, SY16 3PW. They should be enclosed in an envelope marked "APPOINTMENT - STRICTLY PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL", and must be received by Tuesday 23 May 2017.

Alternatively, applications can be submitted via email to [jobs@wales.ac.uk](mailto:jobs@wales.ac.uk)

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2012 61 VW SCIROCCO 2.0 TDI TECH COUPE, Viper Green, One Owner, 24,000 Miles, £30 Road Tax £11,999



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2015 15 VAUXHALL ADAM 1.2 3 DOOR, Bright Yellow With Black Roof & Alloys, 12,600 Miles £9,499



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2009 59 KIA RIO 1.4, 5 Door, Metallic Blue, 63,000 miles £2,999



2014 14 FIAT 500 TREKKING 1.6 DIESEL, Yellow, One Owner, 10,500 Miles, FSH £9,499



2010 10 FORD FIESTA 1.4 EDGE, 5 Door, Silver, Air-Con, Electric Front Windows, FSH £4,499



2014 14 SKODA YETI 4X4 2.0 TDI ELEGANCE Manual, In White, Full Leather, Heated Seats, 37,000 miles, 1 Owner, FSH £12,999

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62 FORD FOCUS TITANIUM ECONETIC TDCI, BLACK, FULL SERVICE HISTORY 40K...	£8,395
62 HYUNDAI i30 TOURER EST. 1.7 CRDI GREY, SERVICE HISTORY 220 ROAD TAX 35K...	£7,475
13 CITROEN DS3 1.6 HDI, AIRDREAM D STYLE PLUS WHITE WITH BLACK ROOF, CLIMATE CONTROL, CRUISE CONTROL, F.S.H 20 ROAD TAX 23K...	£7,250
62 KIA SOUL 2 CRDI, SILVER, SERVICE HISTORY 32K...	£6,995
11 POLO SEL Tdi 90 1.6, 5 DR, SILVER, AC, ALLOY WHEELS ONE OWN, F.S.H 230 ROAD TAX 55K...	£6,995
11 SKODA FABIA ELEGANCE AUTOMATIC TSI HATCHBACK, BEIGE, SERVICE HISTORY 39K...	£6,195
10 VW GOLF 5 1.6 TDI, 5 DOOR, MET. BLUE, FULL SERVICE HISTORY 530 ROAD TAX 63K...	£5,995
12 SUZUKI SPLASH SZ4, BLUE, FULL SERVICE HISTORY, ONE OWNER 230 ROAD TAX 10K...	£5,795
61 CITROEN C4 VTR HDI 91, BLUE 120 ROAD TAX 49K...	£5,695
09 FORD FIESTA TITANIUM 1.6, 5 DOOR, SILVER, SERVICE HISTORY, ONE OWNER 53K...	£5,184
09 CITROEN C3 PICASSO EXCLUSIVE, GREY, PARKING SENSORS, SERVICE HISTORY 51K...	£4,995
12 NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 1.2, 5 DOOR, MET. RED, FULL SERVICE HISTORY, F.S.H 20 ROAD TAX 42K...	£4,850
10 CITROEN C3 EXCLUSIVE HDI, BLACK, ALLOY WHEELS, CLIMATE CONTROL, CRUISE CONTROL 220 ROAD TAX 51K...	£4,795
60 FIAT 500 LOUNGE, RED, ALLOY WHEELS, AIR CON., SUN ROOF, SERVICE HISTORY 130 ROAD TAX 58K...	£4,695
61 FORD KA 1.2 ZETEC, START/STOP, METALLIC RED, SERVICE HISTORY 130 ROAD TAX 36K...	£4,595
58 HONDA JAZZ 1.4 VTECH EX, BLUE, FULL SERVICE HISTORY 52K...	£4,495
10 SUZUKI SX4 SZ4, BLUE, ALLOY WHEELS, CLIMATE CONTROL, ROOF BARS, SERV. HIST. 57K...	£4,495
58 VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 1.4, BLACK, ONE OWNER, SERVICE HISTORY 46K...	£3,995
09 FORD FOCUS ZETEC 1.6, BLUE, SERVICE HISTORY 75K...	£3,795
56 FORD FOCUS ZETEC CLIMATE, SILVER, SERVICE HISTORY 58K...	£2,995
59 CITROEN C2 VTR, GREEN, SERVICE HISTORY 49K...	£2,495
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06 VAUXHALL COMBO 2000 1.3 CDTI, F.S.H., 2 OWNERS, WHITE 78K...	£2,395

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<b>CAR OF THE WEEK</b>		<b>CONVERTIBLES</b>	
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11 FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC Black	£4495	60 CITROEN BERLINGO 1.6 HDi Enterprise, Blue	£3995
08 VW JETTA SE TDI 140, Black Service History	£3795	05 JEEP CHEROKEE SPORT, DIESEL, Silver	SOLD
07 BMW 116 iSE 77K, Service History	£4395	RENAULT KANGOO TREKKA 4x4	£1395
06 BMW X3 2.0 D DIESEL Black	£5175	53 PEUGEOT PARTNER QUİKSLİVER MPV	£1,895
63 VAUXHALL ADAM 1.4 GLAM, Winter Pack	SOLD	52 HONDA CRV 2.0, Silver	£1750
61 VAUXHALL CORSA EXCITE 1.2 Red, lady ownerOnly	£3995	09 HONDA CRV 2.0 ES V-Tec AUTO, Red	£4595
60 SEAT LEON SE CR TDI ECO, Silver, Diesel	£4495	60 CITROEN BERLINGO 1.6 HDi Enterprise, Blue	£3995
60 VAUXHALL CORSA Ecoflex Silver, 35K	£3995	03 PEUGEOT 307, Diesel	£750
59 CITROEN C3 AIRREAM + HDI Diesel, Cheap Road Tax...	£3995	W BMW 318 Saloon, Lots of History, Previously Supplied by us...	£3995
09 FIAT 500 POP 1.2, White	£2195	<b>LOW COST FINANCE AVAILABLE</b>	
58 CITROEN C3 RHYTHM 1.4 HDI Diesel, Black	£2195	Finance Example: Cash Price £3995 Deposit on Part Exchange £500, Balance £3495 Payable over 18 months at £95.43 per month (APR 16.4%) Subject to status. Terms and conditions apply, if your car is worth more than the deposit price, we will give you the difference back in cash.	

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## MOTRING



The more refined interior and distinctive exterior are sure to be popular

# New Mazda CX-5 available at Furrows

### Commercial feature

SUV customers looking for new levels of style, refinement and driving pleasure are now able to pre-order the all-new Mazda CX-5 from Furrows Mazda on Harlescott Lane in Shrewsbury. Available from June 30, the Mazda CX-5 compact SUV starts from just £23,695 on the road.

A product of Mazda's 'Jinba Ittai' – 'car-and-driver as one' – philosophy, the sharply-styled all-new Mazda CX-5 delivers new levels of driver engagement and comfort for drivers in Shrewsbury.

Noise and vibration within the cabin have been reduced, while steering, suspension and brakes have also been refined, helping deliver an engaging and comfortable driving experience.

### Equipment

The 10-model UK line-up features SE-L Nav and Sport Nav trim levels, and standard equipment includes LED headlights, auto power-folding door mirrors, dual-zone climate control, DAB radio and a seven-inch colour touch-screen display with Mazda's integrated navigation.

At the top of the range, Sport Nav models are fitted with a power liftgate, plus a new head-up display (HUD) that projects directly onto the windscreens (one of the first in its class to do so) and features Traffic Sign Recognition.

Further features on the Sport Nav include a reversing camera, eight-way power adjustable driver's seat, Smart Keyless entry, heated front leather seats and heated steering wheel.

Other highlights include two new optional paint colours: Soul Red Crystal Metallic and Machine Grey Metallic.

Power comes from a range of SKYACTIV engines, available with Mazda's SKYACTIV-MT six-speed manual or SKYACTIV-Drive six-speed automatic transmissions. Mazda's intelligent i-ACTIV all-wheel drive (AWD) system can also be specified.

Antony Frost, Furrows' Group new car sales manager, said: "The previous-generation Mazda CX-5 proved very popular across Shropshire

MAZDA CX-5, FROM £23,695



Sport Nav trim features include a powered liftgate



The previous generation CX-5 sold well across Shropshire

and we're certain the all-new model will build on that success.

"The more refined interior and distinctive exterior are sure to be popular, and the improved handling and driving experience will be immediately apparent for those taking a test drive.

"Perfect for families, and arriving

just in time for summer, we can't wait for our customers to get behind the wheel for more adventures in the all-new Mazda CX-5!"

For more information about the all-new Mazda CX-5, visit Furrows Mazda at the Harlescott Lane showroom, call 01743 454444 or visit [www.furrowsmazda.co.uk](http://www.furrowsmazda.co.uk)

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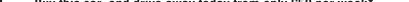
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# New Swift looks set to put a smile on quite a few faces

By John Griffiths

Suzuki's latest Swift range - launched this spring to critical acclaim - has been joined by two new models, even before it has hit the showrooms.

Bigger, better looking, more powerful yet more economical, the Swift is the hot new contender in the supermini class, one of the most fiercely competitive areas of the car market.

The two newcomers are the 1.0 litre with automatic transmission, and a 1.2 litre petrol-electric hybrid with an 'on demand' four wheel drive system. The 1.2 litre unit, minus the electric assistance, already features on the base model in the range.

A 998cc automatic, I hear you scoff. So would I, with experience of two cars just a few years ago with normally aspirated, four cylinder cars and old three-speed autos not that many years ago. A trip over the Pennines in one such car was best forgotten as the car was constantly screaming at high revs, hunting between second and third gear.

But we've moved on a long way. Or Suzuki has, and its turbocharged Swift with responsive six-speed transmission is as far from that experience as a Spitfire is from a Sopwith Camel.

### Saleable

The Japanese manufacturer is by no means the only car maker staking at least part of its future on such a highly efficient, mini-turbo engine which gives you an indication of just how saleable they are.

Naturally we all want to cut our fuel bills, but another factor is the continued demonisation of diesel. So a petrol engine which can compete on fuel efficiency, and for that lazy, torquey cruising ability of a typical oil-burner, is a good way forward for many motorists.

And then a responsive, smooth auto is an ideal companion - especially as traffic congestion in the city (and even on motorways) seems to become a daily occurrence. Unless, of course, constant use of the clutch is your idea of a daily workout, burning calories along with your friction plates.

The new Swift range, which goes on sale on June 1, starts from £10,999 rising to £14,499 depending on trim and engine choice. The auto option on 1.0 litre Boosterjet (turbo) engines adds £1,350 while the lightweight all-wheel drive system adds £1,000. The latter is only available with the 1.2 mild hybrid power train.



There are stronger haunches and semi-concealed rear door handles which give the car a sharper, sportier line

Having already been impressed with the 1.0 litre engine in both the larger S-Cross SUV and the Baleno as well as the first new Swifts, I was keen to try the automatic on British roads.

Often, you get the feeling that car makers, when launching new cars to the media, choose routes which emphasise the model's best features. Suzuki, on the other hand, set us loose on the steep and tortuous roads of the Peak District National Park - probably the toughest test route you could find for a little automatic and an indication of the company's confidence.

The engine has 110bhp and 160Nm of torque (170 with the manual gearbox) which endows it with lively performance. The 0 to 62mph sprint takes ten seconds - actually slightly quicker than the manual but it isn't all about sprinting. What really counts is the perfectly matched ratios and the rapid changes mean it's a real smoothie, performing as quietly as a more traditional 1.6 or 1.8 litre car. A couple of uphill overtaking manoeuvres were completed with surprising alacrity.

It feels relaxed even in testing conditions and that, of course, means the driver and passengers feel more relaxed, too. The official fuel average is 56.5mpg so I was more than impressed with my 48mpg

average for the trip. That compared to 45mpg for the manual but electrically assisted SHVS version over a similar, but arguably rather more testing route where actually getting into top gear was a rare experience. The hybrid's official fuel average is 65.7mpg, while the 1.0 Boosterjet's laboratory test rating is 61.4mpg.

Of course it isn't only the engines which make the difference on this third generation Swift, even though they are 19 per cent more powerful and eight per cent more economical than the outgoing model. It's slightly shorter than the outgoing model, but with a longer wheelbase which has allowed the engineers to create more room inside and, perhaps most importantly, a 25 per cent increase in boot space - rectifying a weakness in the previous Swift.

From the outside, stronger haunches and semi-concealed rear door handles give it a sharper, sportier outline. It's also a lot lighter, wider and sits lower, two factors which have contributed to its considerably improved dynamics.

The £10,999 entry level price is around £1,500 more than the outgoing model but that's a three door car (all are now five door) and all the latest Swifts include air conditioning, six airbags, privacy glass

**SUZUKI SWIFT, FROM £10,999**

and Bluetooth. Higher grade models add features such as a colour display screen with smartphone link, alloy wheels, rear view camera and fog lamps, which the top of the range model gets automatic air con, electric windows at the rear as well as the front and adaptive cruise control and 'dual sensor' brake support.

The latter uses both a camera and laser to detect other cars, people or animals in front and, if you're getting a bit too close, give you and audible and visual warning. Ignore that and the car brakes for you.

Last year, Suzuki set a record for sales in this country, selling more than 38,200 cars following the launch of the new Vitara and the Baleno. Now, with the new Ignis already in showrooms and the latest Swift to follow shortly, the company has reason to be confident of another high this year.

Each car company has its own answer, or a combination of answers, to rising motoring costs and the diesel controversy. Suzuki's is light weight and some of the most modern and efficient petrol engines whereby smaller capacity doesn't mean a loss of refinement or driving pleasure.

The new Swift, already a mainstay of Suzuki's sales book, looks set to put a smile on quite a few faces and bring some 'conquest' sales from its rivals.

## Luxury rather than safety is choice



Drivers are more likely to spend money on optional extras such as upgraded infotainment systems than on safety, a study has found.

Four out of five motorists say safety technology is very important when they are buying a car.

However, a staggering nine million drivers refuse to pay extra for safety features as they are too costly.

Over 2,000 people took part in a survey by vehicle safety company Stop the Crash, which collated information on what people spend their money on.

David Ward, chairman of the Stop the Crash partnership, said: "This research shows how important safety is to the consumer, but highlights how this often fails to translate into safety options being purchased in the showroom."

"Manufacturers must offer safety systems with proven ability to save lives as standard."

Around 83 per cent of motorists think that

the best safety options should be fitted as standard as they are expensive.

Features such as autonomous braking (AEB) should be standard according to Stop the Crash, which is calling on all

manufacturers to fit AEB to all new cars at no extra cost. Currently only one in 10 cars sold in the UK comes with AEB as standard.

However the company also feels there is

a responsibility with motorists. Premium tyres, for example, working along with AEB can help prevent a crash much more effectively.

According to the organisation, AEB could lead to a 38 per cent reduction in rear-end collisions and could potentially save 1,100 lives and stop 120,000 injuries over the next decade.

It isn't just AEB that can save lives, though. There are a whole host of other safety features that can cost several hundred pounds extra but make a huge difference to safety. These include blind spot detection, which is handy on motorways to help you change lane without hitting any vehicles in your blind spots. There is also lane keep assist, which automatically steers you back into the correct lane if you begin to stray over the white lines.

Meanwhile, radar-guided cruise control is a system that detects and matches your speed to the car in front.

# How they stand

## Shropshire County Cricket League

### Premier Division

	P	W	D	L	C/A	P
Broseley	3	3	0	0	0	60
Whitchurch	3	2	0	1	0	64
Ludlow	3	2	1	0	0	52
Newton	3	2	0	1	0	52
Frankton	3	1	2	0	0	37
Quada	3	0	2	1	0	35
Worfield	3	0	2	1	0	37
Wem	3	1	0	2	0	31
St Georges	3	0	2	1	0	26
Madeley	3	0	1	2	0	10
Albrighton	3	0	0	3	0	10

### Division 1

	P	W	D	L	C/A	P
Bromes Heath	3	2	1	0	0	56
Count	3	2	1	0	0	56
Beacon	3	2	0	1	0	50
Shelton	3	2	1	0	0	50
Condover	3	2	1	0	0	50
Knockin & K	3	1	1	1	0	39
Wroxeter Grove	3	0	2	1	0	39
Alberbury	3	0	1	2	0	29
Forton	3	0	1	2	0	29
Welsopwood	3	1	1	1	0	29
Montgomery	3	0	0	3	0	17
Lilleshall	3	0	0	3	0	12

### Division 2

	P	W	D	L	C/A	P
Ellenore	3	3	0	0	0	62
Pontesbury	3	3	0	0	0	60
Shifnal	3	3	0	0	0	60
Wheaton Aston	3	1	1	1	0	44
Allscott	3	1	1	1	0	39
Shrewsbury	3	1	1	1	0	39
Church Stretton	3	1	0	2	0	33
Wenlock	3	1	0	2	0	30
Bishops Castle	3	1	0	2	0	29
Willey	3	1	0	2	0	29
Church Aston	0	0	1	2	0	18
Prees	0	0	1	2	0	11

### Division 3

	P	W	D	L	C/A	P
Caes Glas	3	3	0	0	0	68
Heron	3	3	0	0	0	68
Hodnet	3	2	1	0	0	55
Iscynd & FB	3	2	0	1	0	41
St Georges	3	1	1	0	0	41
Chelmarsh	3	1	1	1	0	35
Ludlow	3	1	0	2	0	35
Tryst & S	3	1	0	2	0	35
Much Wenlock	0	0	1	2	0	19
Corveadol	0	0	0	3	0	10

### Second Teams Premier Division

	P	W	D	L	C/A	P
Kenilworth	3	3	0	0	0	60
Shifnal	3	2	0	1	0	45
Himley	3	2	0	1	0	43
Bromsgrove	3	2	0	1	0	43
Moseley	3	2	0	1	0	43
Barnards Green	3	2	0	1	0	43
Wellington	3	1	1	0	0	39
Worfield	3	0	2	1	0	37
Leamington	3	0	0	3	0	32
Walmley	3	0	0	3	0	15
Bridgnorth	3	0	0	3	0	11

	Division One			
	P	W	D	L
Smethwick	3	3	0	0
Hinckley	3	2	0	1
Bromsgrove	3	2	0	1
Moseley	3	2	0	1
Barnards Green	3	2	0	1
Wellington	3	1	1	0
Attenborough	3	1	1	0
Leamington	3	0	0	3
Walmley	3	0	0	3
Bridgnorth	3	0	0	3

	Division Two			
	P	W	D	L
Forsthall	3	3	0	0
Oswestry	3	3	0	0
Harborne	3	3	0	0
Wombourne	3	2	0	1
Coventry & N.W.	3	2	0	1
Sutton Coldfield	3	1	0	1
Old Hill	3	1	0	2
Perrins	3	0	2	1
O & H Hawks	3	0	0	3
Old Elizabethtown	3	0	0	3
Penridge	3	1	0	2
Halesowen	3	0	0	3

	Division Three			
	P	W	D	L
Kenilworth	3	3	0	0
Shifnal	3	3	0	0
Himley	3	2	0	1
Bromsgrove	3	1	0	2
Moseley	3	1	0	2
Barnards Green	3	1	0	2
Wellington	3	0	1	2
Attenborough	3	0	1	2
Leamington	3	0	0	3
Walmley	3	0	0	3
Bridgnorth	3	0	0	3

	Division One			
	P	W	D	L
Bromsgrove	3	3	0	0
Moseley	3	3	0	0
Barnards Green	3	3	0	0
Wellington	3	2	0	1
Attenborough	3	2	0	1
Leamington	3	1	1	0
Walmley	3	0	1	2
Bridgnorth	3	0	0	3

	Division Two			
	P	W	D	L
Forsthall	3	3	0	0
Oswestry	3	3	0	0
Harborne	3	3	0	0
Wombourne	3	2	0	1
Coventry & N.W.	3	2	0	1
Sutton Coldfield	3	1	0	1
Old Hill	3	1	0	2
Perrins	3	0	2	1
O & H Hawks	3	0	0	3
Old Elizabethtown	3	0	0	3
Penridge	3	1	0	2
Halesowen	3	0	0	3

	Division Three			
	P	W	D	L
Bromsgrove	3	3	0	0
Moseley	3	3	0	0
Barnards Green	3	3	0	0
Wellington	3	2	0	1
Attenborough	3	2	0	1
Leamington	3	1	1	0
Walmley	3	0	1	2
Bridgnorth	3	0	0	3

	Division One			
	P	W	D	L
Bromsgrove	3	3	0	0
Moseley	3	3	0	0
Barnards Green	3	3	0	0
Wellington	3	2	0	1
Attenborough	3	2	0	1
Leamington	3	1	1	0
Walmley	3	0	1	2
Bridgnorth	3	0	0	3

	Division Two			
	P	W	D	L
Bromsgrove	3	3	0	0
Moseley	3	3	0	0
Barnards Green	3	3	0	0
Wellington	3	2	0	1
Attenborough	3	2	0	1
Leamington	3	1	1	0
Walmley	3	0	1	2
Bridgnorth	3	0	0	3

	Division Three			
	P	W	D	L
Bromsgrove	3	3	0	0
Moseley	3	3	0	0
Barnards Green	3	3	0	0
Wellington	3	2	0	1
Attenborough	3	2	0	1
Leamington	3	1	1	0



# Glas shine with nervy win to move clear at top

CAE GLAS pulled off a nail-biting seven run win over Iscoyd & Fenns Bank to make it three wins out of three in the Henshalls Shropshire Cricket League division three.

Victory took the Glas four points clear at the top of the table as they chase a swift return to division two next season.

Despite heavy rain in the previous 24 hours, the match started on time in dry, cloudy conditions, and Glas were put in to bat against a strong bowling attack after again losing the toss.

Wickets started to fall at a regular rate and at one point the home side were toiling on 49-6 in the 15th over.

However, a determined 37 from Gaz Edgerton supported ably by the lower order batsmen of Alex Carter, Barry Vaughan and Andy Hughes enabled Cae Glas to post a score of 10 all out in 38 overs.

Useful contributors with the bat also included Ian Holgate (10) and Gary Davies (18), while pick of the Fenns Bank bowlers was Duncan Chaplin who snapped up 5-39.

With the visitors only having 10 players, the balance of the match swung in favour of the home side when Fenns Bank were reduced to 77-8, still 30 runs short of the winning target and with just one wicket remaining.

However, the last pair of Jamie Dowley (13) and Duncan Chaplin (14) ensured a nail-biting finish as they edged towards the target before the final wicket fell on 99 in the 40th over with Fenns Bank seven runs short.

Pick of the Cae Glas bowlers was Gary Davies (5-31) and Gaz Edgerton (3-28), ably supported by Alex Carter, Andy Hughes and Nick Broadbent.

Second placed CAE GLAS II kept up the pressure on the leaders in the 2nd XI League division three with a tight 11-run win away to WELSHPOOL II.

Put in to bat, they were restricted to 126-9 in 40 overs, with opener Ben Hipkiss holding the early innings together with 42 while Peter Bowyer weighed in with 29 at six. Mat Sherwood took 2-28 and Rupert Redway 2-25.

Welshpool started well enough in reply through Nick Davies (42) and Rupert Shingler (20) but, after both were dismissed by John Clarke (2-25), the innings fell away to 114 all out. Dave Edwards took 5-10.

# Three and easy as Ellesmere win another

ELLESMORE continued their flying start at the top of the Henshalls Shropshire League division two after reeling off a third straight win with a five wicket beating of Willey.

Making the trip to Barrow Park in good heart, the Meresiders kept a tight rein as the hosts struggled for runs before being boosted by some late hitting from Dave Macintosh (37) and Shane Hatton (28).

Both were dismissed by Felix Ashley as Willey managed to post 154-9 in 40 overs, Ashley Thomas taking 3-63.

Ellesmere were put on the back foot after losing three early wickets, but skipper Graeme Cowey led the fightback with 65. Ashley Thomas also weighed in with 29 before Matthew Lewis (21 not out) saw the visitors over the line with over six overs to spare.

It was not such a good day for ELLESMORE'S second string who went down by five wickets at home to Acton Reynold II in the 2nd XI League division three.

They looked to be in with a good chance after dismissing their visitors for 135, Bradley Chapman picking up 4-37 with two wickets apiece for Mike Lewis, Lee Thomas and Owen Washington.

But Ellesmere also struggled in reply and, despite a solid opening from Jonathan Mitchell (23) and Max Smith (18), they fell away to 92 all out in the 29th over. Graham Hughes was the chief destroyer with 6-25 from 10 overs.



Oswestry's Joe Monk, who went on to pick up two wickets, bowls to Bomere's Australian opener Travis Keys. ■ Picture: John Bridgwater.

# Pool last pair dig in for draw at leaders

CRICKET by John Bridgwater

**WELSHPOOL** dug deep to hold out for a battling draw at early leaders Bomere Heath as they continue to adjust to life in the Henshalls Shropshire Cricket League division one.

Chasing a daunting 245-8, newly promoted Pool were up against it, but ensured they returned with a creditable 10 points with the last pair surviving a tense last two overs.

Put in to bat first, Bomere lost opener Charlie Wigley cheaply when bowled by Tom Anderson for five with the score on 29.

But Australian Travis Keys (73) and Sam Bloor (36) helped the score along to 115 before Bloor was caught by Joe Monk off the bowling of Tom Pengelly.

Chris Edenborough maintained the momentum with 57, and Tom Ellis weighed in with a lively 35 as the home side posted 245-8 declared in 42.1 overs.

Tom Anderson was the most successful of the Pool attack with 3-41, while fellow opening bowler Joe Monk (2-39) also weighed in with a couple of victims.

With 47 overs to bat, Welshpool lost wickets at regular intervals but navigated the last few overs in a tense finish to secure a losing draw.

**MONTGOMERY** continue to toil in the same division as they suffered a third straight loss when edged out by 18 runs at home to Cound.

Electing to bat first, Cound were kept in check as they were dismissed for 140 in 39.5 overs, with James Corfield taking 4-30 and Aaron Ruff-Cock 4-34.

But it was tough going in reply despite an unbeaten 41 from Corfield while Tim Davies and Ruff-Cock chipped in with 20 apiece.

Last man Edward Bennett made 15 before being run out as Monty were dismissed for 122 in the 41st over.

**MONTGOMERY II** suffered their first loss in the 2nd XI League division two after being downed by five wickets at their Ludlow counterparts.

Captain Patrick Wilding made 24 as they toiled to 132-9 off 40 overs, with 31 extras being the chief contributor. Mark Porteous (3-28) was the most successful of the home attack.

Porteous then made his mark with the bat, cracking 66 at the top of the order to put Ludlow off course for victory despite a fine spell from David Jones (4-18 off five overs).

**KNOCKIN & KINNERLEY** pulled off a well-paced five wicket win over Shelton to stay in touching distance of the leaders in division one.

Shelton had posted 201-7 in their 45 overs, with good contributions from Alex Salisbury (53), Zeke Mellor (45) and opener Mark Davies (37). Marcus Williams was the most successful

## Trophy treble for Llanfair Youth



Trophy time – Llanfair United's young guns show off the silverware after a superb season

LLANFAIR United's young guns pulled off a hat-trick of silverware after landing the Mid Wales Youth League title with a resounding 4-0 victory over Caersws in the final at Waterloo.

The league crown put the seal on a terrific spell for the lads who a few days earlier claimed Central Wales Youth Cup, also against Caersws, with a 4-1 verdict at Newtown's Latham Park.

Before that they opened their trail of success by clinching the Mid Wales Youth League Cup

of the bowlers with 3-54.

Knockin started well in reply through openers Steven Gray (32) and Luke Beckett (28) before Ed Nicholas maintained the momentum with 30.

Hugh Morris, who earlier claimed three catches, then saw his side over the line with nine balls to spare after hitting an unbeaten 38. Ross Griffiths picked up 4-73 for the visitors.

**KNOCKIN & KINNERLEY II** were beaten by

courtesy of a 3-1 victory over Welshpool in the final at Llanidloes.

Brimming with confidence, the team proved too strong for the Bluebirds on their way to the Mid Wales Youth League title.

Josh Astley opened the scoring after 35 minutes with a well-taken finish from the edge of the area.

That was how the scoring remained before Astley added his second to double the advantage after 72 minutes after being set

eight wickets with one ball to spare against Shelton II in the 2nd League division one.

They posted a respectable 201-9, opener Bluey Thomas making 51 and James Evans hitting 48, while Jim Cadwallader grabbed 4-43.

Shelton timed their reply perfectly to get home off the penultimate ball, Alex Walker leading the chase with 81 and fellow opener Alan Jackson adding good support on 63.

# Oswestry bowled over by winning start

CRICKET by John Bridgwater

as Sutton Coldfield were bowled out for 185.

**OSWESTRY II** are also off to a flier in the 2nd XI second division (north), and lie second in their table after a 60-run success against Lichfield II at Morda Road. James O'Reilly hit 96, his brother Michael 45, Luke Jones 30no and Owen Aspinall 24 as Oswestry reached 240-6 in their 45 overs.

Youngster Josh Darley picked up an early wicket in Lichfield's reply, and there were two wickets apiece for skipper Jonny Davies and James O'Reilly.

But the outstanding figures came from Matt Whithread, who showed there's no substitute for experience by taking 5-25 off nine overs.

Lichfield were bowled out for 180 in the 39th over, making Oswestry post two wins and a tie from their first three matches.

**OSWESTRY III** gained their first Shropshire

League victory of the season when they won by eight wickets at Wroxeter Grove III in division four.

But there was a hugely disappointing ending to the game for Oswestry skipper Alex Ramsay.

Ramsay was unbeaten on 98 with the scores level – and the next ball went for four byes to take Oswestry past their target.

James Bradbury lent good support to Ramsay, making 42 not out and sharing an unbroken stand of 126 as Oswestry reached 171-2 in reply to the home side's 167-9.

Earlier Neil Darley had taken 5-40 and Adam Lloyd 2-31 for the Oswestry side.

**OSWESTRY IV** failed to make it a clean sweep for the club when they lost by 90 runs at Madeley II in the Shropshire Sunday League division two.

Madeley made 203-4 in their 40 overs and Ivor Pearsall held the Oswestry reply together with a fine 58, but only Ryan Boyd (17) gave him any support as the innings folded to 113 all out.

# Shropshire Cricket Lge fixtures list for weekend

## Saturday

### Premier Division

Wem v St Georges; Frankton v Madeley; Wetherall Park Drayton; Newtown v Quatt; Ludlow v Brossley; Albrighton v Worfield.

### Division One

Bomere Heath v Condover; Welshpool v Lilleshall; Forton v Wroxeter Grove; Alberbury v Montgomery; Cound v Knockin & Kinnerley; Shelton v Beacon.

### Division Two

Press v Shifnal 3; Wellington 3 v Church Stretton; Wheaton Aston v Willey; Ellesmere v Alscot; Pontesbury v Church Aston; Bishop's Castle v Shrewsbury 3.

### Division Three

Cae Glas v Much Wenlock; Iscoyd & Fenns Bank v Corvedale; Trysull & Seisdon v Acton Reynold; Calverhall v Chelmarsh; Harpers v St Georges 3; Ludlow 3 v Hodnet; Peplow & Tiberton.

### Division Four

Wroxeter Grove 3 v Guitifield; Oswestry 3 v Coton Hall; Alscot 2 v Bridgnorth 3; Harcourt v Overton on Dee; Llanidloes v Quayside.

### Second Team

Knockin & Kinnerley 2 v Cound 2; Quatt 2 v Alberbury 2; Wroxeter Grove 2 v Whitchurch 2; Madeley 2 v Frankton 2; Worfield 2 v Shelton 2; St Georges 2 v Allscot 2.

### Division Two

Condover 2 v Wellington 2; Beacon 2 v Alberbury 2; Market Drayton 2 v Forton 2; Montgomery 2 v Pontesbury 2; Shifnal 4 v Newton 2; Willey 2 v Ludlow 2; Lilleshall 2 v Iscoyd & Fenns Bank 2; Brossley 2 v Bomere Heath 2.

### Division Three

Acton Reynold 2 v Lilleshall 3; Beacon 3 v Bishop's Castle 2; Corvedale 2; Welshpool 2; Much Wenlock 2 v Cae Glas 2; Quatt 3 v Ellesmere 2; St Georges 2 v Allscot 3.

### Sunday

#### Division One

Worfield 4 v Lilleshall 3; Wellington 5 v Alberbury 3; Newport 3 v Cound 3; Knockin & Kinnerley 3 v Whitchurch 3; Sentinel 3 v Frankton 3; Bomere Heath 2 v Wem 3.

#### Division Two

Strawbery 4 v Wellington 6; Market Drayton 3 v Bridgnorth 4; Oswestry 4 v Knockin & Kinnerley 3; Madeley 4 v Madeley 3; Ludlow 4 v Pontesbury 3.

**Frankton in cruise control as Wem wilt**

A STRONG all round display took Frankton to a comfortable nine wicket win at Wem as they cemented their place among the leading places in the Henshalls Shropshire Cricket League premier division.

Wem were always up against it after losing both openers for ducks when put in to bat, with wicket-keeper Sam Peate providing most resistance with 36 at No 3.

There was little support at the other end despite Tom Astley's 21, with Thomas Wilkie picking up four wickets.

Frankton had no problems in knocking off the 133 runs required in the 39th over to collect 20 points.

After the loss of an early wicket, Ian Whitticase (63no) and Scott Hale (50no) came together to ensure no more alarms as they guided their side to their target.

**FRANKTON II** were skittled for just 59 on their way to an eight wicket defeat at home to Wem in the 2nd XI League division one.

Asked to bat first, they struggled against the impressive bowling of Stuart Raine who, after picking up both openers, finished with 5-16 off 13 overs. Danny Evans had a top score of 20 for the Hardwick Park hosts.

Wen needed 25 overs to get to their target, Russell Mellings making 31, while Jack Kelly provided a

**Super Sam shines with bat and ball**

SAM Griffiths shone with both bat and ball as Guitifield accounted for Quayside with seven wickets to continue their climb in the Shropshire League division four.

First, the all rounder snapped up 3-33 off nine overs as Quayside were sent back off 106 in 39 overs, Gary West also taking 3-26 and David Harris 2-15.

Opener Griffiths then led the reply by cracking an unbeaten 65 as Guitifield reached their target in the 19th over to collect 20 points.

# Sport

OSWESTRY SPORTS DESK 01743 283301

## Berriew boss hails his Spar Cup winners

JUBILANT manager Dave Jones hailed his Berriew players after lifting the Spar Mid Wales League Cup.

The Rhiwesiders edged out Llanrhedad 1-0 in the final at Carno thanks to a goal 10 minutes from time by top scorer Richard Davies.

It sentened Llan to more final heartbreak, but Jones - the former Welshpool boss - felt it was just reward for his side following their promotion to the Spar Mid Wales League's top flight this season.

"The lads have deserved something for the way they've played after coming up to division one this season," said Jones.

"It was a tight game, and it looked like one goal would decide it. Fortunately we got that goal."

"To finish third in the league and to win the league cup has made it an outstanding season."

Berriew still have a chance to add another trophy as they are through to the semi-finals of the Montgomeryshire Challenge Cup where they will meet the winners of the tie between Llanfair and Guilsfield.

Llanrhedad are in the other Montgomeryshire Cup semi-final, where they will take on Abermule, and will be desperate to shrug of the disappointment of their final defeat.

They had their chances but were denied by a couple of key saves from keeper Danny Foulkes.

## Racer Ben powers clear of the field

BEN Power has roared further ahead in the MRF National Legends Car Championship after winning three races in the two-day meeting at Cadwell Park in Lincolnshire.

The Guilsfield racing driver won both of Saturday's heats and the second race on Sunday. He also recorded the fastest lap in several races and came within 0.2 seconds of the lap record, set in 2014.

"It was another really good weekend," said the 27-year-old. "Things have been falling into place, and I'm very pleased with another three wins."

"It's a great feeling to be top of the championship standings, but there's a long way to go yet."

## Waterloo sign off with cup success

WATERLOO Rovers rounded off a terrific season by lifting the Tanners Town Cup with a 3-2 victory over Bishop's Castle in the final at Newtown's Latham Park.

The Montgomeryshire League's first division champions came face to face with the leading lights in the second division as they chased more silverware.

And Rovers again showed their worth as they ran out winners thanks to a brace from Chris Hughes, and one from Luke Evans as they stormed into a three-goal lead.

Castle rallied with two goals to reduce the deficit, but the Welshpool outfit held on in a tense finish to lift the trophy.

## Cricket Pool last pair dig in for draw – P39

## Football Llanfair fall at the final hurdle – P38



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## Oswestry looking for more of same

CRICKET by John Bridgwater

OSWESTRY will be looking to continue their best start to a Birmingham Cricket League season when they host early strugglers Halesowen on Saturday (noon).

The Morda Road men have won all three matches to claim a maximum 60 points, while this weekend's visitors have suffered contrasting fortunes with three straight defeats.

Confidence will be justifiably high in the Oswestry camp after going joint top of the second division table following their 57-run win at Sutton Coldfield. But captain Robbie Clarke has warned his side to be on their guard as they prepare for the visit of a Halesowen outfit languish-

ing at the foot of the table.

"It's great to get off to such a good start, but there's a long way to go yet," said Clarke. "We're playing well and team spirit is excellent - but we're only three games into a 22-match season and we're taking nothing for granted."

Clarke is delighted with the form shown by all-rounder Warrick Fynn, who followed up centuries in the first two matches with 74 on Saturday.

"Warrick's in great nick, but the other lads are all backing him up well," added the skipper.

Xavie Clarke (45), Robbie Clarke (37), Joe Carrasco (27) and Mark Robinson (20) all weighed in with useful scores to set a target of 242-8 off their 50 overs.

Sadaf Hussain and Roman Walker then dismissed the Sutton Coldfield openers with just seven on the board - and from there it was always an uphill struggle for the home side.

Hussain finished with 2-41, and there were also two wickets each for Ian Davies, Xavie Clarke and Fynn as Sutton Coldfield were bowled out for 185.

Halesowen's tough start continued last weekend with a seven wicket loss to Fordhouses who share pole position with Oswestry.

## Routledge on list for top award

THE New Saints midfielder Jon Routledge is one of three nominees for the Welsh Premier League's player of the season award.

The TNS ace is competing for the honour along with Golden Boot winner Jason Osswell, who bagged 22 league goals for Newtown, and Henry Jones of Bangor City.

The winner of the award will be unveiled at the Welsh Premier's 25th annual awards evening in Newport on Saturday.

Routledge will be looking to become the first TNS player to win the award since top scorer Mike Wilde took the honour in the 2012-13 season.

"Jon has been fantastic last season," said boss Craig Harrison. "He's been excellent. He's come in and hit the ground running and gone straight into the Champions League games."

Liverpool-born midfielder Routledge, 27, played in the Premier League while at Wigan Athletic and had spells with Hamilton and Dumbarton, before joining TNS a year ago. He made 29 appearances in the Welsh Premier for the Saints last season, scoring four goals.

Northwich-born 24-year-old Osswell, who began his career at Crewe, has scored 51 goals since joining the Robins from Airbus UK Broughton in 2014.

Bangor's Jones, who is also nominated for the young player of the season accolade, signed for Bangor City in August last year following his release by Swansea City. He has made 29 Welsh Premier appearances this season, scoring 10 goals.

TNS boss Craig Harrison, who guided his side to a sixth successive league crown, is on the shortlist for manager of the season.

He is up against Andy Morrison, manager of runners-up Gap Connah's Quay, Colin Caton (Bala Town, whose side were third and won the Welsh Cup) and Cefn Druids chief Huw Griffiths.

## Darlington makes his Wrexham return

CARL Darlington, the former The New Saints coach, has returned to National League side Wrexham for a second time.

Darlington previously had a spell working alongside then manager Kevin Wilkin, but left Wrexham when Gary Mills was appointed as manager to return to TNS.

"I'm obviously delighted to get Darlo in, as he's someone who can help me personally, someone I can learn from and develop," said Wrexham manager Dean Keates.

"From working with him the first time right, we have become good friends and stayed in contact. I'm absolutely delighted that he's become part of the staff and his contribution will be vital as we look to good forward."

"He is someone else who has the club at heart, a local lad and the club means everything to him."

Darlington, who left the Saints earlier this month, will be involved with Wrexham in a part-time capacity as he combines his duties with those at the FA of Wales.

## GUILS BOSS TO STAND DOWN

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

### GUILSFIELD player boss Dan Barton has stepped down from the helm following management changes announced this week by the Huws Gray Cymru Alliance club

Barton was in charge for two seasons at Clos Myton after taking over from Mike Parry, with his team finishing fourth in his first year and eighth last term.

The striker will remain with the club in a playing capacity, with his assistant of the last two seasons, Nathan Leonard, taking over as manager, assisted by club stalwart Bernie Jones.

A prolific goal-scorer, Barton made his mark in the Welsh Premier with Newtown, TNS and Rhyd, and also with Ellesmere Rangers.

After joining Guilsfield as a player, a terrific 2013/14 campaign saw the forward become both the Cymru Alliance's top scorer and league's player of the season.

Danny Barton has reluctantly stepped down as player-manager due to increasing work commitments," said a club statement.

"The club wishes to thank Danny for all his hard work and commitment as player-manager for the last two years, and are pleased that he will still be involved with Guilsfield FC.

"He steered the club to the quarter final of this season's Welsh Cup and maintained the club's position in the top half of the league. The club will always be grateful to Danny for his professionalism in developing the current squad.

"Nathan inherits a strong squad and all at Guilsfield wish Lenny the very best for the future."

Meanwhile, a new management team has also been unveiled by FC OSWESTRY TOWN following the departure of another Barton - Mike Barton.

After announcing that Barton had left the club following an end of season slump, Town moved quickly to install Richard Williams-Cooke and Ryan Butcher as joint managers.

Butcher, a former manager at St Martins, was assistant to Barton, while Williams-Cooke joined the club as a player last December.

## Monk in wickets for Welshpool



Welshpool's Joe Monk took two wickets and a catch in the draw against Bomer Heath

HIGH-RIDING Cae Glas bid to continue their positive start to the Shropshire Cricket League division three when they host lowly Much Wenlock on Saturday (1pm), writes JOHN BRIDGWATER.

After dropping down a level this season, it has been the perfect response from the Gatacre side who are now four points clear at the top of the table following three successive wins.

The latest success was a tight seven-run victory over Iscoyd & Fenns Bank, and the Glaz will now look to keep up the early momentum at home to Much Wenlock.

WELSHPOOL who held out for a losing draw at high flying Bomer Heath in a tense finish last week, return to Maesdyre on Saturday when they tackle Lilleshall.

MONTGOMERY, who were promoted to the first division along with Pool, bid for a change of fortunes when they head to Alberbury.

It's been a tough start to the season for Monty who suffered their third straight loss when edged out by 18 runs against Cound. They currently find themselves second bottom in the table.

Knockin & Kinnerley are away to Cound while Ellesmere welcome Allscott in division two as they chase a fourth win of the campaign.

On the back of two wins in division four, Guisfield and Llandrindod can travel to Wroxeter Grove this weekend in good heart.

Elsewhere, Frankton host Madeley as they seek to maintain their encouraging start to the premier division campaign.

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